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Moscow Not To Engage in Redrawing Baltic Borders

LD1905192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] "Having urged Russia to recognize the existence of "unsettled territorial issues" and to take up the responsibility for the damage inflicted by the USSR on the Baltic states after 1940 and compensate for it, the participants in the recent Baltic Assembly embarked on the dangerous path of removing those events from the context of historical analysis and fitting them into the context of financial, material and other claims to the Russian Federation," Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin stated during the briefing on Thursday.

"Russia does not and will not bear the responsibility for Stalin's regime. Neither shall we engage in redrawing the borders or even discuss this problem," he said.

The results of the Assembly confirmed that the earlier expressed fears that the normalization and development of Russia's relations with the three Baltic states might not suit certain political forces in those countries, he continued. Individual Baltic politicians are looking for new pretexts for substantiating their anti-Russian policies, instead of giving a historical assessment to the dramatic historical events, said Karasin.

Baltic Military Leaders Meet, Discuss Peacekeeping

WS2005073494 Tallinn BNS in English 1307 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 19, BNS—The Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian chiefs of general staff during a two-day meeting in Vilnius coordinated a draft treaty on the formation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

The document is subject to initialing by the Baltic states' premiers or even by the presidents.

Col. Gintaras Tamulaitis, the Lithuanian acting chief of staff, told BNS the meeting also discussed the joint military exercises planned for July. Other issues touched upon included the next meeting of the Baltic commanders in chief, establishment of an operational communications system between the three states, and the activity of foreign military attaches.

Tamulaitis said the meeting was "of great benefit" and that the three countries' representatives reached agreement in fundamental issues concerning the Baltic battalion.

The only point of difference was Lithuania's suggestion to prepare future officers of the Baltic battalion at a Lithuanian training center. Latvian and Estonian representatives were of the opinion that each country should itself train its officers.

The chiefs of general staff agreed to meet again at the end of June.

Estonia was represented at the Vilnius meeting by Lt. Col. Arvo Sirel, the acting chief of general staff, and Lt. Col. Mart Tiru, the general staff head of office. Latvia's representative was Col. Jurne Arnes, the chief of general staff.

Tajik Peacekeeping Commander Visits Regional Capitals

MK1905122494 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report in the "From Alma-Ata" column: "The New Commander Is Meeting With Ministers"]

[Text] Col.-Gen. Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in Tajikistan, has visited Tashkent, Alma-Ata [Almaty], and Bishkek.

In a conversation with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent Col.-Gen. Patrikeyev, who has been commander of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces for several weeks (he replaced Col.-Gen. Boris Pyankov in this post), noted that during his trip he has met with defense ministers of the states whose units, jointly with Russia's military formations, are performing a peacekeeping mission in Tajikistan. Main attention was given to questions of joint financial support for the Collective Peacekeeping Forces.

CIS Economic Union Commission Developed

LD1805203894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A conference of experts ended in the CIS headquarters in Minsk Wednesday. The meeting completed the development of the constituent documents of a new standing CIS body, Economic Union Commission, under the CIS Coordinating and Consultative Committee.

According to the documents, the functions of the new body include developing documents for setting up a mechanism for the creation of a single economic space and analyzing the progress of the economic development of the CIS states with the purpose of shaping up coordinated economic and social policies.

The Economic Union Commission is also expected to develop measures to support CIS interstate structures.

It is planned for the commission's headquarters to be located in Minsk.

If the CIS member-states decide to set up the commission, this will require an amendment in the CIS Charter which does not envision such a structure.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Promise Not To Use Force in Crimea

LD2005124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk have given each other a promise not to adopt violent measures to resolve the "Crimean question." Boris Yeltsin told journalists this today during an interval between the presentation of credentials to the Russian president by the ambassadors of foreign states.

Boris Yeltsin referred to his telephone conversation yesterday with Leonid Kravchuk. Boris Yeltsin stressed in particular that the Crimea is a sovereign republic and is entitled to conduct its own policies.

Yeltsin Aide Urges 'Cool' Approach

LD2005125194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] "The war of nerves between Kiev and Simferopol was doomed to aggravate," a member of Russia's Presidential Council, Emil Payn, told Interfax in comments on developments in and around the Crimea.

According to him, on the one hand, a negative impact on the development of events was made by the tough stand taken by the Kiev authorities toward the Crimea as a means of consolidating the polarized Ukrainian society on the eve of presidential elections. On the other, the Crimean leadership showed no particular inclination for compromises, being disposed to take decisions made by Kiev too nervously, said Payn.

According to him, energetic measures designed to cool the situation should be taken by the Russian authorities urgently. Such steps should be addressed to both Simferopol and Kiev. "They must be not threats, but purely diplomatic measures—statements and actions aimed at preventing the conflict from further aggravating," Payn said.

He drew attention to the one-sided coverage of the developments in and around the Crimea by some Russian news media, in particular television, whose solidarity with the Crimean authorities might stimulate Simferopol's tough stand toward Kiev.

Foreign Ministry Cautions Ukraine on Crimea

LD2005125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] "The Ukrainian leadership's decision to deploy a group of national guards and specially trained troops in the Crimea is fraught with serious consequences primarily for Ukraine itself. It cannot fail to give rise to concern in Moscow," a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry in charge of Russian-Ukrainian relations told INTERFAX on Friday.

According to him, "now the danger of displaying extremism by both Kiev and Simferopol, with all the ensuing consequences, is greater than ever before."

"We do not back the Crimean radicals, of course. Nevertheless Ukraine, which is, speaking figuratively, in another weight division, should behave as it befits a big power," the diplomat said.

So far the Crimean people have acted in the framework of democratic procedures, without violating Ukrainian legislation, he noted. "As regards Kiev, it is not quite clear how it interprets democracy and contemporary international law. To despatch troops is not a good way out of the situation," said INTERFAX's interviewee.

According to him, "if events in the Crimea develop in the same vein, this might grow into a long-term conflict." "The experience of the former Yugoslavia shows that playing with fire ends in a big blaze," he said.

Ukraine "can hardly find anything wrong in Russia's behavior," the diplomat pointed out. "It's characteristic that neither Russia's president and government nor parliament have made any official statements or taken sharp steps so far," he said.

Nevertheless, Kiev "has not abandoned its attempts to find a foe from without," said INTERFAX's interviewee.

On Wednesday the press service of Ukraine's president released a statement to the effect that "dangerous processes in the Crimea are stimulated by some Russian politicians, whose actions acquired the signs of open interference in Ukraine's internal affairs of late." "We do not even want to comment on such statements; Let them remain on Ukraine's conscience," the Russian diplomat said.

Black Sea Command Urges Peaceful Settlement

LD2005125494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—The Black Sea navy command today called on all the political leaders, involved in the current events in the Crimea, to do their best to settle all the arising disputes by peaceful political means.

Political instability in the Crimea and the situation around naval bases, says an official statement issued by the Black Sea navy press centre today, engenders moral and psychological tension in military units. No matter how the situation develops, the Black Sea navy will not

be able to keep aloof of the processes occurring around it. This alarms the command of the navy, its officers and noncoms.

The statement says that not a single regional conflict was solved by armed force over the past twenty years. The wars in Nagorno- Karabakh, Yugoslavia and Abkhazia show that the ordinary people suffer from the hostilities, but not those who unleash them. The Black Sea navy command relies on the wisdom and good will of the peoples and the political representative they had elected.

The winter training is about to end on the Black Sea navy. The press centre's statement says that exercises of different forces are proceeding according to schedule. Taking part in them are warships, auxiliary vessels, and aircraft.

Ukrainian Nationalism Blamed for Fleet Talks Failure

LD1905182694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian ground forces, has said that the attempts of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to resolve the issue of the Black Sea Fleet have not yielded any tangible results so far because of the nationalist ambitions of the Ukrainian leadership. Semenov spoke today at a briefing in Moscow, RIA reported.

Churkin Previews Grachev Visit to Brussels

LD2005104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 May—Many aspects of partnerly cooperation between Russia and the North Atlantic alliance will be decided during Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's forthcoming visit to Brussels, during which he will attend the NATO Council meeting. This was stated today by Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, after talks between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Alain Juppe, French foreign minister.

Vitaliy Churkin stressed that Russia has not officially raised the question of special status for itself in the event that it joins NATO's Partnership for Peace program. At the moment, consideration is being given to an appropriate way of reflecting a special form of relations between Russia and NATO. The Russian side believes that these relations will be extensive and meaningful. The official name for this program of cooperation also has to be decided. The scope of the interdepartmental consultations on our side goes far beyond anything which the countries of Eastern Europe and the CIS states, which have already joined Partnership for Peace, are prepared to discuss with NATO. Among other things, Russia's nuclear status has to be taken into account, the deputy minister said.

Vitaliy Churkin described Pavel Grachev's forthcoming visit to Brussels as unprecedented. The defense minister will meet the 16 ministers of defense of the countries belonging to the North Atlantic Assembly.

NATO Discussion of Russian Special Status Welcome

LD1905165494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Moscow welcomes the discussion by NATO of the possibility of granting Russia a special status, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for European Cooperation, Yuriy Ushakov, told Interfax.

He said that "judging from this discussion, many of our ideas concerning partnership and Relations with NATO are being heeded." "We are optimistic about NATO's determination to discuss relations with Russia. This is a move in the right direction, because for natural reasons relations between Russia and NATO have gone beyond the Partnership for Peace program," he said.

To quote Ushakov, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to Brussels, scheduled for the next week, has two main goals. "Firstly, it implies the discussion of the military doctrine and high-level contacts with NATO. And secondly, Grachev intends to discuss Russia's participation in the Partnership program and consolidate the conceptual foundation of our cooperation with NATO," he said.

He pointed out that the Partnership for Peace program was mostly oriented to military cooperation. "At the current stage, this is not the most important thing for us. Russia is interested in real partnership, above all political and economic," he went on to say.

He announced that Grachev would inform the NATO officials of the Russian ideas of partnership with NATO. "We do not intend to slow down our dealings with NATO. The essence of our relations with NATO is far more important for us than any framework documents similar to the Partnership for Peace program,," he said. Russia's partnership with NATO has been developing even without the Partnership for Peace program which does not add any essential elements to our cooperation," said Ushakov.

No statements will be made in Brussels concerning the date of Russia's joining this program, he continued.

The Russian Defense Ministry welcomed the NATO discussion of granting Russia a special status in the Partnership for Peace program, the Defense Ministry told Interfax on Thursday.

Military experts noted, however, that it was not yet clear what was actually meant by the term. Neither is it clear

how Russian representatives will be able to influence decisions taken by the participants in the Partnership for Peace program.

Experts believe that the definition of Russia's status may have the decisive impact on whether or not Russia will join this program. "The final decision is to be taken by Russian President Boris Yeltsin," said Ushakov.

As we reported earlier, Grachev's visit to Brussels and his speech at the NATO headquarters, had been scheduled for May 24 and 25. Firstly, the visit implies the discussion of the military doctrine and high-level contacts with NATO. And secondly, Grachev intends to discuss Russia's participation in the Partnership program and consolidate the conceptual foundation of our cooperation with NATO. On his way to Brussels (May 23), Grachev is to make a stop-over in Germany where he will visit the Western Army Group and hold talks with German bankers.

Karasin Comments on G-7 Summit Format

LD1905162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Naples May 19 TASS—The attempts to put to the question the agreed format of the annual summit of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations which is due to be held soon in the Italian city of Naples, will not promote the success of the forthcoming meeting, Grigoriy Karasin, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a briefing here today.

A number of foreign news media, he stressed, have been publishing materials lately the authors of which "are interpreting the format of the oncoming G7 summit differently from the earlier agreed one and reported by the Italian side to all participants of the meeting".

In this connection, Grigoriy Karasin noted, "in the course of meetings, consultations and exchanges of messages between leaders of the Group of Seven and Russia it was agreed that the Russian side would participate from the very beginning in discussing all political problems the results of which would be reflected in a statement by the Italian prime minister presiding at the summit on behalf of eight leaders."

Thus, the Russian diplomat says, the summit in Naples will become a meeting of the "political Group of Eight", for the first time in history.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, the practical realisation of this formula has already begun. Specifically, he said, Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov took part in a meeting between deputy heads and directors of political departments of foreign ministries of the G7 and Russia who were drawing up a political agenda for the forthcoming meeting of heads of state and governments in Naples.

Economic problems of interaction between Russia and the G7 have already been discussed according to a formula "seven plus one", Grigoriy Karasin emphasised.

France Balks at Draft EU-Moscow Agreements

LD1905200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] France was the only European Union country at a session of the EU Council not to support the package of agreements reached by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and Deputy Chairman of the EU Commission Leon Brittan on May 2 in Moscow.

Deputy Head of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Department for Multilateral Cooperation Maksim Medvedkov told Interfax that to adopt the package, approved by all other EU members on May 16, would make the prospect of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union being initialled and then signed in June or July a reality.

The Shokhin-Brittan agreements concerned ways to settle the two most burning issues in Russian economic relations with the EU: the conditions for the activity of foreign banks in Russia and trade regulations for substances used in the nuclear industry, particularly uranium, which has become a true stumbling block.

Medvedkov said that France was afraid that Russian uranium exports would deliver a blow to its own nuclear fuel exports to EU countries. He said he doubted that France had any other reason to veto the Shokhin-Brittan deal or the signing of the partnership and cooperation agreement itself.

He said France was simply making the latest in a series of attempts to tailor the regulations governing uranium sales to its own requirements but without providing so much as a hint of an argument in defense of its position.

"France's fears are economically groundless and are more abstract in character," Medvedkov commented. Paris was concerned, for example, that Russia would try to inundate Europe with its uranium at some future date and alter the existing market. "That assumption too is unfounded, since EU restrictions on the export of fissile substances exist, and there are other Euroatom rules which are binding for Russia," he said.

Russia and France will discuss this complex issue and other difficulties associated with the signing of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between Russia and the EU during the current visit by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to Moscow.

Kozyrev, CE Official Discuss Human Rights

LD1905155694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—Struggle against nationalism in all its manifestations, for strict observance of human rights should become a top priority area of cooperation between Russia and the Council of Europe, said here on Thursday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at a meeting with Miguel Angel Marinez, president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

The minister noted that the Russian side feels concern over the position of the Russian-speaking people in the Baltics.

Kozyrev confirmed Russia's desire to join the Council of Europe and expressed hope that the practical solution of this issue will not take more than one year.

The minister noted that May 21 marks another anniversary of Andrey Sakharov's birth, a date which traditionally fills the hearts of honest Russian people with a hope for the successful continuation of the cause of this outstanding champion for human rights.

"I believe that Russia will be Sakharov's Russia rather than Zhirinovskiy's," stressed Kozyrev. He underlined that the operating Constitution and democratically elected Russian parliament are a guarantee that the present changes will be irreversible.

Rybkin, CE Official Discuss Membership

LD1905221794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Chairman of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Miguel Martinez was sure that Russia would be admitted to the Council of Europe at its session in February, 1995. This was stated today at the meeting between Miguel Martinez and Russian State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Martinez recognized that some members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly had certain doubts on admission of Russia. He stressed that he was trying to talk three or four leading states into supporting the idea.

Miguel Martinez emphasized that several stated would regard the presence of Russian troops in Estonia and Latvia as an obstacle to Russia's admission to the Council of Europe. Martinez himself did not see the problem as one of basic importance.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev received Miguel Martinez on the same day.

Kozyrev said that the Russian leadership was attracting much of attention to dynamic development of relations with the Council of Europe, the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

Kozyrev suggested that adoption of the new constitution and the free democratic elections in Russia had solved all key-problems related to the admission of Russia to the Council of Europe. He hoped that Russia's application for admission would be considered timely.

Reportage on French Foreign Minister Juppe's Visit

Rybkin, Juppe Discuss Bosnia

LD1905170994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is on an official visit to Russia, today met Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin. Our correspondent Stanislav Bozhenkov was at the meeting. We have him on the air.

[Bozhenkov] The chairman of the State Duma noted that this was the first time a French foreign minister had visited the Duma in 80 years. He briefly recounted the work of the Russian Duma and its committees to the French guest. Incidentally, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs Vladimir Lukin was present at the meeting.

Speaking on the tasks which face the State Duma, Ivan Rybkin indicated that we have still to build the complete structure of a legal state. We are working in cooperation with the president and the government and the Federation Council, Ivan Rybkin said. The chairman of the State Duma stressed the need for accord in society. The result of this had been the signing of the Treaty on Public Accord. This was a necessary condition for carrying out reforms.

Ivan Rybkin went on to say that he would like to see France taking a more active part in our complex affairs. He also pointed out the importance of Russia's involvement in the work of the Council of Europe.

This is my first official visit to Russia, Alain Juppe said in the course of the conversation. Bilateral economic and political cooperation were at the center of the agenda of the Russo-French talks, the French minister pointed out. Also the improvement of the two countries' cooperation in solving pressing international problems including settling the Bosnian crisis and strengthening the stability and security of Europe.

Speaking on Russia's involvement in the solution of global problems, Alain Juppe said that the Group of Seven should become the Group of Eight. My aim, the French minister said, is to give the relations between our two countries the character of a real partnership.

Juppe Welcomes Special Russian NATO Status

LD1905221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1952 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 May—Paris welcomes NATO's readiness to provide Russia with a special status in the framework of "Partnership for Peace" that would correspond to Russia's specific character, Alain Juppe, foreign minister of the French Republic, told journalists in Moscow on Thursday.

France, he said after his talks with Andrey Kozyrev, attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation with Russia. We are trying to encourage partnership between the Russian Federation, on the one hand, and Europe and various European institutions, on the other. France would like Russia to join the Council of Europe. "We are also pleased with the fact," the French minister continued, "that the Atlantic Union is ready to give special status to Russia that would correspondent to its specific character."

Juppe said that during the talks in Moscow the situation in former Yugoslavia was discussed. You know that our countries have been working a lot together on this problem. A few days ago Russia, the United States, and the European Union states succeeded in adopting a joint document. One must not slacken pressure now—it is necessary to continue together to persuade the parties in the Bosnian conflict to end hostilities.

Moscow-Paris Hotline To Be Set Up

LD1905191594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1744 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 19 May—A hotline is to be set up between the residences of the presidents of Russia and France—between the Kremlin and the Elysee palace. An agreement on this was concluded today in Moscow by Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev and his French counterpart Alain Juppe. The solemn ceremony of signing the document took place after the conversation between the heads of the foreign policy departments which lasted for two and a half hours at the mansion of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had ended.

Yeltsin Meets With Juppe

LD2005081494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppe has begun in the Kremlin. Journalists are not admitted to the talks, but it is known that the Russian president is probing France's stance on the forthcoming summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries in Naples, in which the Russian president will take part, and Russia's relations with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Kozyrev, Juppe Discuss Cooperation in Crises

LD2005083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0759 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Alain Juppe noted during their Thursday evening talks here that Russia and France were closely cooperating in the effort to settle international crises. The negotations confirmed the desire of both sides to "step up the political dialogue", which was noted by the French foreign minister during his interview with ITAR-TASS on the eve of the visit.

A hot line will be opened shortly between the Kremlin and the Elysee Palace. It will help the presidents of the two countries to hold important and urgent consultations whenever necessary. The two foreign ministers signed a corresponding agreement after a talk which lasted for two and a half hours. But already now, the coordination of actions between the sides is very close, especially when it comes to protecting the interests of their citizens.

Thus, the Russian Foreign Ministry has highly appreciated the French assistance during the evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen. Juppe told journalists that Paris was grateful to Moscow for its role in the liberation of French hostages, captured in the Bosnian conflict zone.

The talk, Kozyrev said, has confirmed the importance of permanent contacts at political level. The sides have discussed several key problems, including the Russia-European Union agreement, which is now in the making. The sides also touched on the French proposal to conclude a "stability pact" in Europe, which will be discussed at a conference in Paris next week. They also discussed further approaches to the Bosnian settlement.

The French minister described as "exemplary" the interaction displayed by Moscow and Paris at present in their approaches to the situation in former Yugoslavia. Both countries are actively working on the Bosnian problem. Russia, the United States, and the European Union were able to adopt a joint document a short while ago. At present, the French minister believes, the sides should not relax their pressure. It is necessary to further exert joint influence on the sides involved in the Bosnian conflict in order to make them stop the hostilities.

According to Juppe, France attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation with Russia. It is striving to conduce Russia's partnership with Europe in various European institutions. Paris wants Russia to join the Council of Europe. "We are also glad," the French minister noted, "that the Atlantic union is ready to grant Russia within the Partnership for Peace programme a status that would be in keeping with its specific character."

Kozyrev, Juppe Comment on Talks

LD2005125994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Late Thursday evening French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe summed up the results of three-hour talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev by saying Paris is in favor of Moscow enjoying a special status in relations with NATO.

Kozyrev, in turn, described cooperation between Moscow and Paris as a mainstay for new Europe. He hoped Juppe's official visit to Moscow would contribute to the cordial understanding between the two countries and would help remove objections to the conclusion of a formal agreement between Russia and the European Union. France opposed, among other things, the export of nuclear materials.

Juppe hoped he would be able to convince the other member-nations of the European Union to voice their own view of the problem, with the result that the European Union and Russia would, after all, sign an agreement. He said France favors an agreement between Russia and the European Union.

Juppe thanked the Russian leaders for help in the efforts to release eleven French nationals in Bosnia. The French were taken hostage on a humanitarian mission near Sarajevo.

Kozyrev thanked France for help in the evacuation of Russian citizens from Yemen.

Kozyrev said that in addition to bilateral relations he and Juppe discussed some international issues, including the Bosnian developments. Both felt that more pressure must be exerted on the conflicting communities for the sake of a cease-fire.

In response to a question from Interfax, Kozyrev said that Moscow assigned priority to relations with France. He described his French counterpart as a good friend and a remarkably cultured and intelligent person.

It would be premature, Kozyrev said in response to another question from Interfax, to try to prognosticate the impact of Kiev-Crimea relations on relations between Kiev and Moscow.

Kozyrev declined comment on the recent killing of three Russian citizens in Algeria. He told a French newsman that the situation in Algeria was very complicated.

Kozyrev and Juppe agreed to have a hotline between the Moscow Kremlin and the French Elysee. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged also exchanged [as received] archive materials. France received part of the French archives which, due to a variety of reasons, fell into Moscow's hands, and Russia received some Russian archives which had been in France.

Churkin Reviews Chernomyrdin-Juppe Talks

LD2005104594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 May—An agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Community [EC] will be ready for initialling in June this year. This was stated today by Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin upon completion of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

Vitaliy Churkin said Alain Juppe assured Viktor Chernomyrdin of France's readiness in the near future to join Russia in resolving the question of the trade in products of the nuclear cycle. The special position adopted by France in this area has so far held back the talks on concluding a cooperation agreement between Russia and the EC. Russia and France are, of course, major producers of fuel for nuclear power stations and compete in European markets.

A number of questions relating to bilateral trade-economic cooperation were also discussed at the talks. Alain Juppe handed Viktor Chernomyrdin an invitation from French Prime Minister Eduard Balladur to visit France in the second half of this year. The invitation was accepted.

Military Chiefs Differ on Peace Role in Karabakh

LD2005101794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Col-Gen [Vladimir] Semenov, commander in chief of ground forces, said the recent talks in Moscow on the Karabakh conflict must be regarded as abortive as the Azerbaijanis have failed to sign the final document. A similar assessment was already made by Col-Gen [Yevgeniy] Podkolzin, commander of airborne forces. He also believes airborne forces cannot be dispatched to the region without the consent of Baku authorities. However, according to the SNARK agency, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev does favor the dispatch of Russian forces to the Karabakh region.

Russian, Kazakh Experts To Discuss Baykonur Treaty

LD2005092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0035 GMT 20 May 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (ITAR-TASS)—It is planned to hold a routine meeting of Russian and Kazakhstan experts at the end of May to discuss questions of concluding a treaty on leasing the Baykonur complex. But before that, on 20 May, it is expected that Oleg Soskovets, Russian deputy premier and cochairman of the interstate commission on Baykonur, will visit the cosmodrome.

Oleg Soskovets will be present at the launching of a Proton carrier rocket which is to put into orbit the second Gorizont space apparatus under a commercial contract with the U.S. company Rimsat. The deputy premier will also acquaint himself with the state of affairs at Baykonur.

The agreement between the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan "On the basic principles and conditions for using the Baykonur cosmodrome" signed on 28 March by the presidents of the two countries should be ratified by the relevant state bodies of Russia and Kazakhstan in the near future. After this, the sides must conclude the actual treaty on the leasing; specialists on the interstate commission are already working on drawing up the treaty.

However, the problems in "space" relations beteen Russia and Kazakhstan did not end with the signing of the agreement. The most acutely disputed issue at present is the size of the rent. The agreement sets the rent at $115 million a year. But the Kazakh side asserts that this is only the "starting price." In reality, Russia should pay $480 million a year for Baykonur. The difference between 115 million and 480 million can be made up by Russia's allocating to Kazakhstan satellite communications systems, the results of studies of Kazakhstan's natural resources, and also by training Kazakhstan's specialists in space equipment.

The Russian specialists are bewildered at such an "arbitrary interpretation" of the document. They consider that 115 million is the total size of the rent which already includes the price of services provided for Kazakhstan.

Ostankino Broadcasts to Uzbekistan May Be Cut

LD1905221894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Well informed sources state that June could see the end of the relaying of Ostankino television and Mayak radio to Uzbekistan.

Zafar Khakimov of the Uzbek national broadcast company would neither confirm or deny this information to Interfax saying that he did not have the relevant information.

In the meantime local television and radio workers have already been told that in the near future Uzbek broadcasting will be increased by a total of 20 hours per day to make up for the loss of Ostankino and Mayak. To this end another 200 people will be employed.

For Uzbek residents television and radio programs from Moscow are the main source of information about life in Russia, the CIS and the world. Of the former Soviet and now Russian newspapers, only RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, TRUD and MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA are published in the republic.

Russian-ROK Economic Commission Session Postponed

LD1905204094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—The first session of the joint intergovernmental Russian-South Korean economic, scientific and technical commission session, planned to open in Seoul on Thursday, has been put off, but can be held sometime later in Moscow, high-ranking sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS.

According to the sources, head of the Russian delegation, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economics Aleksandr Shokhin "due to purely internal circumstances" cannot undertake the trip to Seoul on the aforesaid dates. An appropriate explanation has been conveyed to the South Korean Foreign Ministry. At the same time, a suggestion has been made to hold the session in Moscow before the forthcoming June 1 to 4 visit to Moscow by South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, especially as a number of important problems of economic cooperation between the two states are expected to be discussed at the session on the eve of the high level visit.

"We are now waiting for a response to this proposal," the high-ranking Russian diplomat, who wished to remain unidentified, said. He emphasised that the Russian side is deeply interested in holding the commission's session and attaches great significance to it.

In turn, sources in the Russian Government told ITAR-TASS that Aleksandr Shokhin could not fly to Seoul, as he has been charged with "very important tasks" by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The possibility of replacing Aleksandr Shokhin by another Vice-Prime Minister Viktor Yarov at the session was also considered. But later it was decided that since Aleksandr Shokhin has a better understanding of the range of problems, it will be "illogical to replace him by another person at the last moment."

The informed government sources noted that Aleksandr Shokhin is "fully involved" in making preparations for the visit to Moscow by Kim Yong-sam. For the time being, planned for the next week visit to Beijing by Shokhin remains in force which is to take place directly before the beginning of Viktor Chernomyrdin's official visit to Beijing from May 26 to 29.

Yeltsin Cites 'Domestic Problems' as Reason

LD2005063494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul May 20—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday sent a personal message to President Kim Yong-sam of the Republic of Korea about a postponement of the first session of the Russian-South Korean Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation, according to diplomatic sources in Seoul.

The sources said the letter explains that the commission's session, which was previously scheduled to be held on Seoul on May 20, has been postponed because Aleksandr Shokhin, vice-premier and minister of economics, cannot arrive in South Korea "due to purely domestic problems".

Yeltsin suggested that the commission hold a session in Moscow before Kim's visit to Russia. The visit is scheduled for June 1-4.

Yarov To Replace Shokhin in Talks

LD1905195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vice Premier and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin cannot fly to Korea on Thursday as planned. Interfax learned at Shokhin's office that Yuriy Yarov would go in his place.

Officials said that the change had been made at the request of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who had given Shokhin urgent work, the nature of which is unknown. They denied reports that the incident was linked to a possible changes in the government.

Shokhin had intended to spend two days in Seoul and discuss bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

ROK Company To Build Russian Yak Aircraft

PM2005083594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Russian Planes From the Korean Conveyor Belt"]

[Text] Russian airplanes will soon be produced by plants in South Korea, thanks to a joint company set up by the South Korean "Khendz" [name as transliterated] corporation and the Russian A.S. Yakovlev Experimental Design Bureau. Production of "Yak" aircraft is expected to begin in the course of the year.

The "Khendz-Yak Aerospace" joint venture, in which the South Korean side will have a 51-percent share and the Russian experimental design bureau 49 percent, plans to produce medium-sized and small aircraft. It is expected that in the future the joint venture will be able to sell its output abroad, notably in the United States and European countries.

Foreign Ministry on Talks With DPRK Diplomats

LD1905193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea are interested in overcoming the current lull in bilateral relations and broadening contacts in the political, economic and other spheres, which is clear from the visit of North Korean diplomats led by the deputy foreign minister, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin said during a briefing on Thursday.

He announced that the North Korean delegation had held talks with deputy foreign ministers Igor Ivanov, Aleksandr Panov and Georgiy Mamedov.

To quote Karasin, the talks dealt with the establishment of inter-parliamentary contacts, with the resumption of the work of the inter-governmental consultative commission for economic, scientific and technical problems, with the creation of joint ventures, with broadening direct contacts between Siberian and Far Eastern regions, and with the drafting of a new agreement on joint lumbering in the Khabarovsk Territory and Amursk Region.

Karasin stated that nuclear problems had been discussed in great detail. "Russia favors tougher observance of the nonproliferation regime in Korea in accordance with the nonproliferation treaty and with the agreement on guarantees between North Korea and the IAEA," he said. Moscow also welcomes North Korea's latest steps to facilitate the IAEA inspection of the north Korean nuclear facilities which began last March.

The possibility of replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement which North Korea would like to sign with the U.S. was also discussed. "Russia believes that at the current stage, armistice is the only way of safeguarding peace in Korea. It can be replaced, though, on the basis of mutual agreement of all the parties concerned," he said.

He said that the North Korean delegation had expressed a positive attitude to the Russian proposal on convening an international conference on the settlement of the situation in the Korean peninsula. "Both parties are convinced that the problems facing the Korean Peninsula must be settled peacefully, through talks, without pressure and with due account taken of the interests of all states," said Karasin.

'Turning Point' Seen in DPRK Stance on Russia

PM1905180794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Platkovskiy article: "Kim Il-song Has Not Forgotten Gorbachev's 'Treachery,' But Is Not Averse to Giving Yeltsin a Game"]

[Text] There are certain signs that Russia and North Korea are overcoming their period of estrangement.

In the opinion of Russian diplomats, a turning point in Pyongyang's policy emerged during the talks at deputy foreign minister level held in Moscow.

Dialogue between Moscow and Pyongyang came to a standstill in 1990, when diplomatic relations were established between the USSR and South Korea—a state which is still not recognized in the North. The DPRK accused Mikhail Gorbachev of "selling out to the puppets in Seoul for $3 billion and betraying true friends."

Since the collapse of the Union and the appearance of new leaders in Moscow the North Korean leadership has maintained the utmost coldness in relations with Russia. Nina Andreyeva and Lyudmila Zykina have become the most cherished visitors in Pyongyang.

Now, when North Korea is under pressure from the United States and its allies, who are demanding that nuclear programs be brought out into the open, Pyongyang is solely reliant on the support of China, its traditional ally. Moscow's attempts to act as mediator in the nuclear dispute had so far been rejected by the North Koreans. However, at these recent talks there was a shift in Pyongyang's stance.

As IZVESTIYA was informed by Valentin Moiseyev, department leader in the Russian Foreign Ministry, for the first time the North Korean side made a positive assessment of Moscow's initiative to hold an international conference on questions of the security and nonnuclear status of the Korean peninsula with the participation of Russia, the United States, China, Japan, the DPRK, South Korea, and representatives of the UN secretary general and of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Moscow diplomats want to ensure that Russia has the opportunity to influence the situation. Moscow is very concerned by the fact that the United States is threatening the DPRK with international economic sanctions. It will be Russia, which maintains trading and economic links with North Korea, which will have to pay the price here, and not the United States, which has no such links.

It is important, according to our diplomats, to maintain balanced, friendly relations with both North and South Korea. A clear tilt toward Seoul has now emerged.

The talks did not touch on questions of military-technical cooperation. However, according to available information, Russian Defense Ministry circles do not rule out the possibility in the first instance of supplying the North Korean Army with spare parts for its military hardware: The bulk of the equipment in the DPRK is Soviet-made. Our military experts think that it will thereby be possible to obtain additional levers of influence on the North Korean leadership.

Meanwhile Russian diplomats continue trying to persuade the North Koreans of the need to observe the requirements stemming from the Treaty on the Nonproliferetion of Nuclear Weapons. The latest attempts were made during the last consultations. They were unsuccessful.

Shakhray Urges 'Strategy' in Ties With China

PM2005095694 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 4

[Sergey Shakhray article: "Strategy Needed for Relationship With China"]

[Text] Reform began in China seven years before it began here, and it has been more successful. The reason is that the Chinese had already had their fingers burned once from trying to introduce a foreign (Soviet) development model and had paid a huge price for it.

The successful progress of reform in China should generate close interest from us. We should hardly be expected to blindly borrow the experience of "special economic zones"—we do not have a Russian diaspora able, like the "overseas Chinese," to pay for 60-90 percent of the development of their native provinces. We should not copy the experience of creating "small industries" in the countryside—we do not have a 200-300-million surplus peasant labor force. Even the very attractive "open-door policy" could hardly be replanted here—the Chinese did not have such highly developed industry, science, and technology when they gave the "green light" to foreign exports and capital investment in strategically important sectors.

Instead we should learn the political techniques of preserving the unity of the state and stability in society. The Chinese miraculously averted the collapse of power during the 10 years of turmoil that were the "Cultural Revolution," and are now showing their skill in combining the interests of elites in the capital, regions, and sectors, the party and military nomenklaturas, and state, private, and foreign enterprises. It is this political stability that has made China attractive to foreign investment and loans—which came to $110 billion in 1993.

One way or another, the Chinese success stands out particularly against the backdrop of the prolonged crisis in Russia and the even more disastrous situation in the adjacent regions of Siberia and the Far East. Around 32 million people currently live there, but by 2010, if there is no change in the current unfavorable economic and demographic trends, there will be no more than 8-10 million people left in the endless expanses east of the

Urals. By then Russia's GNP, according to certain academic estimates, will be only 75 percent that of China. For the first time in the four centuries of Russo-Chinese relations the Middle Kingdom will have overtaken us in its development.

A new batch of problems has been created by the rapid development of economic ties between Russia and China, particularly border regions. Real estate is being illegally bought up by entrepreneurs from the other side of the Amur, and illegal immigration has become widespread. In certain population centers the number of "guests" already exceeds the number of Russians. Typically, even the relevant organs have no accurate figures on the scale of this phenomenon. But unofficial estimates range from several hundred thousand to 2 million! Meanwhile the local authorities are giving the "go-ahead" to the creation of permanent "Chinatown"-style settlements—Chinese "ghettos" such as exist in certain cities in Europe, America, and Southeast Asia. In developing "fraternal" ties with adjacent Chinese regions, the leaders of our settlements and cities are often guided by immediate advantage and proceed solely on the basis of local interests. And general state interests are suffering. I see the main reason for this as being that these—state—interests have not yet been clearly formulated.

Yet another problem has been brought about by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the formation of sovereign Central Asian states in the area where Russia and China meet. Additional factors—primarily ethnic and religious—have emerged to complicate an already difficult situation. It seems that China is a clear winner—after all, the subdividing of the "soft underbelly of Russia" gives it extensive opportunities to make economic and other inroads. But the prospect of an ethnic and religious "renaissance" in the Central Asian states—and still more the prospect of an interstate union being set up on the basis of the idea of the economic, cultural, and religious integration of "Greater Turkestan"—cannot fail to put Beijing on its guard. It knows that relatives of the Kazakhs, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Kirghiz [Kyrgyz], and Uighurs make up a considerable proportion of the representatives of PRC "ethnic minorities"—who account for 90 million of the PRC's 1.2 billion citizens and inhabit around 60 percent of its national territory.

Some of the problems of Soviet-Chinese relations—primarily border problems—have been transferred to the Central Asian states. But they do not yet have the potential to effectively resolve these problems. As a result, Russia has to all intents and purposes been left with its former level of political responsibility in this region. The military-strategic area is being preserved here within the borders of the former USSR—this was confirmed by a recent conference of the leaders of border services in the CIS countries. Moreover, the Russian Federation is continuing the traditions of the Russian Empire and the USSR in their many centuries of relations with the Middle Kingdom.

Thus, there are obvious problems in our ties with our largest neighbor on the Eurasian landmass. They can only be solved by having a unified state strategy that envisages at least short-term programs for developing relations with China for the federal center and Federation components, as well as a policy agreed with the sovereign states of Central Asia.

In elaborating a federal program, we undoubtedly need to proceed on the basis of the major documents signed during President Yeltsin's state visit to Beijing in December 1992. This program should include measures for the priority development of Siberia and the Far East, including incentives for migration, tax breaks for enterprises of all forms of ownership and for investors, and improvements in the provision for the military. We should recall the experience of the settlement of the Far East in the Russian Empire and allocate a proper role to the Cossacks, whose forebears opened up the region and served the state in protecting its borders. We need to tighten up procedures on the border and in the adjoining region, and prevent the creation of "Chinatowns" that could become a major irritant to locals and a source of complications on an interstate scale. Of course, Moscow will also have to undertake some major spending, including subsidies from the state budget. The vagaries of market relations will not be evenhanded in the competition between our economic structures and those of China—Russian entrepreneurs will have to be protected by corresponding laws and administrative measures, while not "cutting off the oxygen supply" to our partners on the other side of the Amur.

I would like to say a few words about the other problems on the Russo-Chinese border, which stretches for 4,375 km. In deciding the issue of the ownership of several islands on the Amur and Argun Rivers we need once again to take account of both state and local interests. In our talks with the Chinese I think we should also use the tactic of joint economic exploitation of disputed territories.

Special mechanisms of collaboration with China should be created for Russian Federation components directly participating in Russo-Chinese cooperation. Clearly, it would be expedient to develop such mechanisms in the form of targeted federal regional cooperation programs that include a system of preferences and exemptions. The federal authorities should provide the program participants with a clear-cut plan for cooperation, changes in regional quotas, tax breaks and customs concessions, and access to centralized credit resources and subsidy funds. Particular attention should be devoted to the system of the functioning of Chinese citizens on Russian territory—capital inflows should not be accompanied by the Chinese population becoming established.

As for cooperation with the Central Asian states, Moscow must take the initiative in concluding a range of bilateral and multilateral treaties on mutual relations

with the PRC. For instance, the idea of economic development for the Semirechye zone in the area where the Russian, Kazakhstani, and Chinese borders intersect looks attractive.

We need to do everything in our power to ensure that the processes of rapid Chinese development, the coming revival of Russia—of which I am confident—and the inevitable process of the creation of a Eurasian union or confederation of Eurasian states do not counteract each but interact, complement, and strengthen each other. Relations with China are too important to Russia to be allowed to drift.

PRC Concerned Over Dalai Lama Visit to Moscow

LD2005082394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—The Chinese Embassy in Russia expressed "concern" over the visit of the Dalai Lama to Moscow. Spokesman of the embassy Zhang Zhiming told TASS on Friday that "China views the activities of the Dalai Lama as political in their essence and aimed at splitting the country".

The Chinese Embassy "attentively and with great concern follows the activities of the Dalai Lama" in the Russian capital, he added.

The spokesman stressed that Russian-Chinese relations are developing in a good way and that the basic principles of such relations had been fixed in a number of agreements. "The Chinese side hopes that the Russian Government will abide by the principles regarding the Dalai Lama", he stressed.

The spokesman expressed hope that the stay of the Buddhist leader in Moscow will not acquire an official character. If he holds meeting with any officials this may result in complications", he warned.

On Thursday sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry said Dalai Lama is on a private visit and no official contacts with him are planned. Russia views Tibet as an integral part of China and treasures relations with that country, according to the sources.

Chinese Naval Squadron Concludes Far East Visit

LD2005044894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0445 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok May 20—A Chinese naval squadron left Vladivostok on Friday, heading home, upon completing the programme for a four-day friendly visit to Russia's far east.

The farewell ceremony was attended by Vice-Admiral Igor Khmelnov, acting commander of Russia's Pacific Fleet, Cong Guimin, military attache of the Chinese embassy in the Russian Federation, and by other officials.

As a token of gratitude for Russian hospitality, the guests planted a tree of friendship on the shore of the Golden Horn Bay.

Shumeyko Previews Latin American Tour

LD1905214094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Dmitriyev]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—"I do not share the view that Latin America is far from Russia's foreign policy interests", the speaker of the Russian parliament's upper house, the Federation Council, said on Thursday.

Vladimir Shumeyko met with newsmen ahead of an official visit by a Federation Council delegation to Latin America, which is due to start on Sunday. During the tour, the Russian delegation will visit Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Ecuador.

According to the speaker, Russia can profit considerably by using the experience of democratic consolidation in Latin American countries.

In particular, he said, has gone through processes in its development very similar to those underway in Russia, namely a transition from early democracy to authoritarian rule, then to renewed democracy and market relations.

Shumeyko also believes that Argentina has one of the most perfect civil codes on peace, which proves to mature democracy in this South American country. Apart from this, Argentina has already achieved national accord, which Russia is seeking at the moment.

The present-day Russia is not guided by ideological considerations when choosing its partners, the Federation Council speaker noted. The main motivation is just mutually beneficial contacts. The potential foe such contacts with Latin American countries is enormous, and they should be certainly stepped up.

Shumeyko confirmed his profound respect for Cuban leader Fidel Castro. "During my visit to Cuba, I had three-hour talks with Fidel, which showed that his assessment of the current political and economic situation, as well as of the global processes, has very little to do with its interpretation by the mass media", the speaker stressed. "Politicians of this level should not be spoken about in passing. Fidel Castro is the world's property, and I will never go back on my words".

Kozyrev on Finnish Assistance With Baltic Problems

LD1905174694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0418 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Baltic region problems occupied a significant place at the Russian-Finnish summit. Here is what Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev told our observer Yuliy Semenov and other journalists.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] There is to be a meeting in Tallinn on cooperation between the Baltic Sea states. Finland has given us support in implementing our initiative on creating the post of commissar for democratic institutions and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities. I have to say that there was a very difficult debate literally right up to the last few days, and I was even considering not going to this meeting at all unless there was agreement on this issue. But now Finland, Finnish diplomacy has taken the part of, what I would call, mediator, and has helped to work out a compromise that gives this commissar a clear mandate to tackle human rights issues in the Baltic states.

We discussed in detail the tasks of this regional institution in general. Lastly, we have expanded bilateral ties; we discussed issues of regulating border crossings, in order to make such crossings simpler though, of course, controllable. We discussed matters relating to regulating the issuing of visas. We agreed to speed up the signing of a bilateral agreement on this score. One of the basic favorable factors of Russian-Finnish relations is the fact that we do not have any territorial problems. Neither side has any territorial claims on the other. These matters have been fully resolved by bilateral agreements and fully dealt under the principles of the CSCE. Incidentally, this is one of the issues that we will definitely be raising at the meeting of Baltic Sea states, so that Latvia and Estonia do not put forward any territorial claims. The existing borders are unshakable and, strictly speaking, no one with any sense contests them. It is true that such claims are being put forward by Estonia, but we are counting on assistance, perhaps even from the Finnish side and other states, in defending this principle without which stability as a whole would simply collapse.

We are conducting bilateral talks on the matter of, say, the withdrawal of troops and we do not need any mediation here but, of course, we value and welcome friendly participation and when our Baltic neighbors give sensible advice. As for the problem of human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities, this problem is an international one, because we cannot allow double standards and the violation of human rights in any country or in any region of Europe. This is not a problem for Russia alone. It is a problem for everyone.

That is why the post of CSCE commissar for the rights of ethnic minorities was created who, incidentally, works primarily with the Baltic states. And now, to assist this commissar, the post of commissar for the Baltic Sea states is to be created. We believe that the high standards that have been achieved in Finland, Sweden, and other Baltic Sea countries in the human rights area and the rights of ethnic minorities should be applied in the Baltic states as well. [end recording]

Finnish Businessmen Optimistic on President's Visit

PM2005110194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report under the "Visits" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin and Martti Ahtisaari Have 'Coordinated Positions.' The Finnish President's First Official Visit to Moscow Ended Yesterday"]

[Text] At a dinner in honor of the eminent Finnish guest, Russian President Boris Yeltsin noted that the present leaders of Russia and Finland not only value the positive undertakings of their predecessors but also "intend to build on them." It was thus stressed that Russo-Finnish relations are a "significant factor for stability in northern Europe and the Baltic region," and consequently it is necessary to "constantly coordinate positions."

As ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has learned, no joint documents were signed on the basis of the results of the talks. But the fact that President Ahtisaari was accompanied on his trip by a large group of Finnish entrepreneurs is indicative. The two countries' businessmen did not waste time on protocol matters but sought to use the top-level talks to consolidate their economic positions in Russia. Especially since both President Yeltsin and President Ahtisaari regarded with approval the development of direct contacts not only between state enterprises but also at the level of private firms. The figures are as follows: In 1993 Russo-Finnish trade turnover was more than 40 percent up on the previous year and totaled almost $2.5 billion. Furthermore, cooperation is developing not only at state level but also between firms and individual enterprises. Finnish companies are showing greatest activeness in Russia's border regions—St. Petersburg, Karelia, and Leningrad and Murmansk oblasts. Special energy-saving and rational forestry use programs have been prepared for those regions. Projects for the development of mobile radio telephone systems, the modernization of highways and railroads, ports, and border transport crossings are being developed. A program of cooperation in the assimilation of oil and gas deposits in the northern regions of Russia is justn one of those being prepared.

It is to be presumed that President Ahtisaari's visit to Moscow and his talks with Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin will give fresh impetus to mutually beneficial cooperation.

Swedish Foreign Minister Visits Kaliningrad

LD1905203894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad May 19 TASS—Visiting Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas has expressed

concern about high concentration of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad region, Russian enclave bordering on Poland, Lithuania and Estonia.

"Kaliningrad may become an important link in developing cooperation both in the Baltic Sea region and with Russia," said Ugglas, who made a one-day trip across the Kaliningrad region on Thursday.

Ugglas became the first foreign foreign minister to visit the region since the Second World War.

She met with Yuriy Matochkin, head of the regional administration, and held a news conference. She declared for constructing a transbaltic highway and some facilities for environmental protection here, developing cooperation between the twin cities and in the field of arts and science.

"Sweden belongs to those countries which strive to involve Kaliningrad in practical cooperation between the countries of the baltic sea region. I intend to discuss it with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in a week's time, at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Baltic Sea region in Tallinn," she emphasized.

According to her, Sweden has alloted two million Swedish Kronas to fund an international research into the economy of the Kaliningrad region with a view to attracting foreign investments.

The Swedish foreign minister left Kaliningrad for Stockholm on Thursday.

Russia, Greece Sign Economic Cooperation Protocol

LD1905204194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A protocol on cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industry of Greece and Russia was signed today in Athens. As ITAR-TASS reports, the document envisages an expansion of bilateral economic cooperation, the stepping-up of economic information exchanges and the organization of direct links between individual regions and companies from the two countries. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Greek representative Ioanis Papandoniou said that his country would assist in increasing the help for Russian reforms given by the European Union. You will recall that Greece is currently chairman of that organization.

Albanian President Urges Russian Role in Europe

LD2005084094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksey Bukalov and Dmitriy Polunin]

[Text] Tirana May 20 TASS—New democratic Russia, committed to the values of freedom and progress, can and should play an important role in European politics, conforming to its status of a great power, Albanian President Sali Berisha said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday.

"There were different periods in relations between our two countries: 'From love to hatred'," the Albanian leader noted. Present-day Albanian-Russian relations are based on equality and mutual respect.

Cooperation between Albania and Russia in the international arena is of great importance for the establishment of peace in the Balkan region, Berisha stressed. He also favoured broader bilateral relations in the economy, politics and culture.

Speaking on Thursday at the ceremony of launching a factory of the Coca Cola firm in Tirana's suburb, where foreign journalists accredited in Rome were invited, the Albanian president said of his country's readiness to liberalise the economy and invite foreign investments.

In the past, legislation forbade the participation of foreign capital in the Albanian economy. It will now play the key role in the country's transition to the market model of development.

Albania hopes for an inflow of foreign investments in the power industry, agriculture and the food industry as well as in the tourist industry. The president noted in this connection that his country has rich natural resources and cheap labour.

The new course of the Albanian leadership for openness and international cooperation offers broad opportunities for the development of the national economy, the president continued.

This course has opponents inside the country. But the overwhelming majority of Albanians support the policy of reforms, he added.

The Albanian leader also touched on some pressing foreign policy issues in his speech. He said that Albania is following with great concern the development of the Bosnian conflict, advocates the immediate end to combat operations and expresses readiness to cooperate closely with the international community in a search for a peaceful settlement.

The president dwelt at length on Albania's relations with neighbouring countries. He pointed to the successful development of Italian-Albanian relations and also stressed that his country is interested in a stable situation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and seeks normal contacts with Greece.

Berisha, together with Premier Aleksander Meksi and other cabinet members, opened the Coca Cola enterprise built with Italian and American assistance. The factory with a capacity of 16,800 bottles per hour was built for [as received] 80 days.

Albania has become 197th country where the Coca Cola company puts out its soft beverage.

Political Issues

Shakhray To Meet Premier, President Before Resignation

LD1905175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray will be carrying out the duties of deputy to the head of the Russian government until the signing by the president of a decree on being relieved of these duties. The final decision on his future in the government Shakhray does not intend to take until his meeting with Premier Chernomyrdin and President Yeltsin. This was how Shakhray commented to the information by an Interfax correspondent that Yeltsin had not accepted Shakhray's resignation.

Shakhray announced his resignation on Wednesday after he had been removed by Yeltsin's orders from his other government post as minister of nationality and regional affairs.

According to Shakhray's press service, he puts the president's evaluation, voiced by Kostikov, of his personal traits "on the conscience" of Press Secretary Kostikov. The latter had voiced criticisms of Shakhray while quoting the president on Thursday at a briefing in the Kremlin. Kostikov, quoting the president's words, in part said that Shakhray is marked by "a certain political fickleness and a desire to accumulate many (governmental) posts, and has political plans that don't always meet the true interests of Russia."

Regional Officials React to Shakhray Resignation

LD1905220994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin did not accept Sergey Shakhray's resignation from the post of vice premier, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president, reported today. He also denied rumors that preparations for a major reshuffle are under way in the top echelons of power in Russia, in particular that Sergey Filatov is going to be dismissed from his post as head of the presidential administration.

In the meantime, Sergey Filatov himself considers that the arrival of the new minister for nationalities will considerably speed up the settlement of the Russian-Chechen issue.

State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin is convinced that this became possible largely thanks to Sergey Shakhray's successful work.

[Begin Rybkin recording] Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray did a great deal to remove the little splits that have appeared between Russia and Chechnya. I think this should be said to his credit—naturally, together with the president—that the treaty on dividing powers between the center and Tatarstan as a region has been concluded. I think the fact that the Chechen Republic has joined the negotiating process also bears witness to the diplomatic activity and sophistication of Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray. It is hard for me to say how the new minister will tackle his job. I think questions relating to inter-ethnic relations are very subtle questions—extremely so, I would say—and this fine tissue of relations should be woven by the hands of professionals of the highest class. [end recording]

Incidentally, Interfax has learned from well-informed sources that since Sergey Shakhray announced his resignation from the post of vice premier, several Russian regional leaders have appealed to the leadership of Russia not to accept his resignation. Among them are the presidents of Tatarstan and Bashkiria, and the head of the Karelian government.

As for Chechnya, Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov expressed an opinion that a personal meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev may take place in the near future. He said Russian-Chechen relations are the most painful issue of all, but added that some progress is beginning to show in the matter.

Background to Yegorov's Appointment to Shakhray Post

PM1805155194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 p 4

[Andrey Aderekhin report: "Kuban Governor N. Yegorov Replaces S. Shakhray"]

[Text] Krasnodar—Nikolay Yegorov, former governor of Kuban, has been appointed Russian Federation minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy.

Yegorov said in an interview with the newspaper KUBANSKIYE NOVOSTI on the eve of his appointment that the president had made the offer to him 6 May and proposed that he start acting as minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy after the public holidays. The governor accepted that proposal.

Yegorov has shown himself to be a very thrifty politician in Krasnodar Kray. As much as five years ago he was chairman of the "Rodina" Collective Farm in Labinskiy Rayon. After August 1991 he became the deputy of V. Dyakonov, the first governor of Kuban. Some time later, however, he moved to the opposition, to the kray soviet, and took Dyakonov's place after his removal from power. At the time of last fall's events Yegorov broke off relations with the kray soviet, which had supported the White House. He was elected a deputy of the Federation Council. At the beginning of this year the administration head finally abandoned his former friendship with the soviets, decreeing the termination of the kray soviet's powers and the abolition of its apparatus.

Yegorov has never been a fervent supporter of Boris Yeltsin, although he has been sufficiently cautious in his

public pronouncements. People in the governor's entourage liked to repeat that all this political fighting was happening in Moscow, while in Kuban it was necessary to get on with their own business—not politics but economics. Premier V. Chernomyrdin repeatedly made approving remarks about Yegorov's business qualities, describing him as a strong leader and economic planner who constantly pestered the government with his regional problems.

The question of Yegorov's move to the Russian Federation Government had evidently been long in preparation. Back in March, after Yeltsin's meetings in Sochi with the kray's governor, people in the administration told journalists that Yegorov's efforts to shape new relations between the center and the region had been evaluated positively by the president. They were referring to the president's and the premier's consent to the signing of an agreement on the delimitation of powers between the center and the kray. The specific provisions of the document were not reported, although it was announced that this agreement would make it possible to realize in practice the principle enshrined in the new Russian Federation Constitution of equal rights for the components of the Federation.

In the opinion of some observers, Yegorov's appointment as a minister will significantly strengthen the positions of the Federation Council, which is headed by Vladimir Shumeyko, who also comes from Krasnodar Kray, in influencing the shaping of regional policy.

Rutskoy Responds to Prosecutor Over Yeltsin Comments

AU1905154394 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 19 may 94

[Text] Moscow, May 19 (AFP)—Russia's former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy said he was questioned Thursday [19 May] by the prosecutor's office after calling for the overthrow of his arch- rival President Boris Yeltsin at rallies earlier this month.

Rutskoy, speaking during a telephone interview with AFP, said he answered all of the prosecutor's questions in writing, filling two and a half pages.

Rutskoy on May 9 urged the overthrow of Yeltsin during a victory day rally to mark the 49th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe.

He told his audience at the time that by the 50th anniversary celebration of the conflict's end, Yeltsin's "police state" would no longer exist.

He made similar comments at another opposition rally May 12.

But on Thursday he said he told prosecutors that he had meant was that the government should be changed through "constitutional means."

"I did not violate the constitution which guarantees each Russian citizen the freedom of ideas and expression," he said.

The prosecutor's office has questioned various other people who took part in both rallies and is to decide Friday whether to launch an official investigation.

Rutskoy and several other leaders of the failed October 1993 revolt against Yeltsin were amnestied by the new legislature in February.

Kostikov Says No Major Government Reshuffle in Prospect

LD1905152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin plans no major reshuffling of the government although he assesses some spheres of its activities as unsatisfactory, according to presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov.

"The president does not intend to follow the practice which is usual for such situations in the West and will not put the blame on the partner by reshuffling or changing the cabinet", the spokesman told reporters on Thursday.

"Nothing radical is in store", he stressed and said that rumours about a possible dismissal of Privatisation Minister Anatoliy Chubays are "inventions and bluff".

But Kostikov admitted that the president had expressed "serious remarks" to Viktor Chernomyrdin during their 6-hour long meeting on Tuesday because of poor implementation of presidential decrees and economic decisions.

However, "the president and the prime minister act in a coordinated way and there is no talk about a crisis of trust between them", according to Kostikov.

"There are serious remarks, tough criticism on the part of the president. The actions of the government are assessed by the president as unsatisfactory in a number of aspects, but there is no misunderstanding", he stressed.

After the signing of the Civic Accord Treaty the president and the government "acquired a sufficient degree of political confidence which allows them not to hide disagreements which exist between them. In conditions of a greater stability there is a possibility to raise questions in a sharper way without fearing they would affect the political situation", Kostikov said.

Newspapers Comment on Latest Changes in Government

LD2005093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 20 May 94

["Russian Press Keen on Latest Changes in Government"—ITAR- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 20 ITAR-TASS—"The premier strengthens positions," IZVESTIYA daily concludes its analysis of the latest changes in the government.

Many national newspapers have been closely watching these changes for days. "Observers have no doubt that Chernomyrdin's position is now so firm that the president cannot afford any new appointments to the government without his consent," IZVESTIYA elaborates. As an example, the newspaper mentions the appointment of the Democratic Party leader, Nikolay Travkin, to the cabinet in order to strengthen contacts with the State Duma.

"Shakhray's release from the post of the nationalities minister should hardly be construed to mean the weakening of the premier's positions. Inter-ethnic problems have traditionally been a prerogative of the president's staff, while the prime minister has been on the sidelines. Moreover, Shakhray's achievements were not over impressive for a struggle to ensue between the president and the premier around this figure," the newspaper muses.

The newspaper calls "symptomatic" changes at the level of second persons in the ministries. On Chernomyrdin's initiative, the decisions on dismissing the deputy ministers of economics and finance, drafted by the government staff, have been shelved. On the contrary, economist Yakov Urinson, a former Gosplan (State Planning Committee) staffer known in the liberal-democratic circles as one of the first and few old-style staffers to actively support market reform ideas, has been given a status equal to that of minister by Chernomyrdin's decision. Sergey Aleksashenko, who has fortunately been rescued from the sacking, is "a young financier known as a first-class specialist with liberal views on the economy".

The newspaper cites analysts who believe that the equilibrium in the government can be seriously tipped if Soskovets, Zaveryukha and co. prove to be stronger. "In this situation, the premier has to support the camp of pro-market liberals in his cabinet in order to safeguard the economy and his own political future".

"The role of the prime minister has enhanced sharply in recent month," according to VEK, a newspaper of the business community.

"The fragile centrist balance, which took shape after Viktor Chernomyrdin came to head the cabinet of ministers is being artificially broken down. It is possible that we will soon see another series of incomprehensible resignations and appointments, leading to the emergence of an absolutely new ruling elite structure," the newspaper warns.

VEK surmises that "a question has been raised about creating a coalition government with the participation of the main opposition forces, which agreed to sign the national conciliation pact". It points to the appointment of Travkin as cabinet member and the premier's meeting with Zhirinovskiy, reportedly to discuss the possible bringing of an LDPR man into the government.

The press, particularly the CIS publishing organ "THE BUSINESS WORLD", highlight the presidential press secretary's assertion that there is no crisis of confidence in relations between the president and the prime minister. "Political concord is in evidence. But in the course of their recent meeting, the president voiced a number of tough remarks about the cabinet relating to the shortfalls in conducting economic reform."

Kostikov Holds News Conference 19 May

Yeltsin Believes Opposition in State Duma

LD1905125394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin does not believe that the "irreconcilable opposition" who hold rallies in Moscow streets is a real force. The true opposition is being formed in the Russian State Duma, presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters on Thursday.

"The irreconcilable opposition is very small and is of marginal character. These forces are a byproduct of political life, have no social support and resort to harsh language because of that", Kostikov said, but added that this does not mean that Yeltsin sees no danger of political extremism.

Yeltsin believes that "the true opposition is currently being formed in the State Duma which is a normal phenomenon", according to Kostikov. The president is ready to hold discussions with it, but if the Duma encroaches on his powers the "attempts will be cut short", the spokesman warned.

Yeltsin believes that relations with Duma have a favourable character in general, but regrets that the lower chamber has spent much time discussing its privileges rather than lawbills. There are "elements inherited from the tactics of the former Supreme Soviet which consisted in unlimited expansion of functions of deputies and of the legislative body", Kostikov said and added that at present "the State Duma is cautiously intervening into the powers of the executive authority". The president has so far quietly reacted to that and sent a letter to the Duma with his remarks.

Yeltsin believes that the situation has become more stable in the country after the signing of the civic accord treaty. "Political forces which stand for accord are undoubtedly dominating the forces of confrontation and political revenge", Kostikov said.

Comments on Chechen Talks

PM1905175594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "B. Yeltsin Prepared To Meet With D. Dudayev and Include New 'Party People' in Government"]

[Text] A routine briefing by V. Kostikov, the Russian Federation president's press secretary, 19 May in the Kremlin confirmed Moscow's intention to begin serious contacts with Groznyy officials.

In view of the acute economic and political crisis there are indications from Chechnya of the desirability of unofficial talks with the Russian leadership. The indications are coming both from the Chechen opposition and from Dzh. Dudayev. There has been no reaction from Russian power structures so far. But B. Yeltsin no longer sees any insuperable obstacles to talks with Groznyy, and the appointment of N. Yegorov to the post of new leader of the Ministry for Nationalities Affairs is meant to step up work in this sphere. We do not yet know whether S. Shakhray will participate in the talks with the Chechnya representatives. The press secretary announced that the president has not accepted his resignation.

V. Kostikov once again explained the president's position on the actions of the intransigent opposition in the shape of A. Rutskoy and his associates. B. Yeltsin is keeping a close eye on the way the "intransigents" are beginning to raise their heads, remembering the unfortunate experience of collaboration with the former Supreme Soviet. He is aware how far they might go. The events of 9 May showed that the opposition does not always engage in civilized ways of achieving its ends. So the president intends to take a tough line on any actions outside the Constitution. At the same time, as the press secretary noted, B. Yeltsin is not against all activity by the opposition, as shown by his words: "We do not want to create some kind of police state. But as far as uncivilized methods of political struggle, crime, and corruption are concerned, in such cases the authorities will take a tough line."

At the end of the briefing, when I asked whether the president was afraid of Khasbulatov's returning to big-time politics (some analysts are forecasting his "resurrection," saying that he will grab power in Groznyy), the press secretary indicated that the president did not see this as a serious danger. Nonetheless, it is probable that certain changes in Moscow's stance on Groznyy are linked to this factor.

I was able to talk recently on this topic with other members of the president's immediate entourage. Summing up what they said, I can construct the following scenario. Dzh. Dudayev has undergone his own political evolution. The Kremlin, aware of the need to strengthen the Federation, is now inclined to acknowledge Dudayev as the legitimate president of Chechnya and hold talks with him. There may be talks in the very near future, leading to a meeting between B. Yeltsin and Dzh. Dudayev.

At the briefing the press secretary made another curious admission, citing the president's opinion (he had talked with B. Yeltsin the day before). According to him, the president intends to employ the practice of expanding party representation in the cabinet of ministers. This pronouncement should be seen as a signal, if you consider what the other representatives of the power structures said on the topic in conversation with me. Although the idea of including N. Travkin in the cabinet of ministers came from V. Chernomyrdin, the president described it as fitting in perfectly with the process of achieving accord and he is prepared to discuss the inclusion of representatives of other parties in the government. As my interlocutors stressed, this does not mean that the process will snowball and posts will be artificially made available for "party people."

V. Kostikov denied rumors that S. Filatov and A. Chubays are about to resign.

Yeltsin Sounds Out Industrialists on Bankruptcy Edicts

MK2005083594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 May 94 p 3

[Nika Stark report under the "A Meeting with Industrialists" rubric: "President Checks His Course"]

[Text] After a lengthy and difficult conversation with Viktor Chernomyrdin about the state of the Russian economy on Monday, Boris Yeltsin decided to hold a meeting with industry chiefs to sound them out on a number of draft economic edicts which have been prepared for signing. The meeting took place yesterday—it started in the Kremlin and finished up in a presidential city residence. The fact that the president decided to personally check out the views of the industrial bosses shows that Yeltsin's displeasure with the progress of reform has really reached a critical point.

More than a dozen industrialists were invited to attend the meeting. According to information received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY from the presidential press service, they included Vladimir Kadannikov, general director of the AvtoVAZ car plant; Aleksandr Dondukov, general director of the Yakovlev Design Bureau; and Aleksey Sharkov, general director of the Uraltransmash plant. Although initially it was expected that the Russian government would be represented at the level of deputy prime ministers, the premier himself arrived in the Kremlin.

The meeting focussed on three main subjects: centralized credits, mutual nonpayments, and bankruptcies. Boris Yeltsin started the conversation by stating that the political situation in Russia is getting more stable and that normal conditions for investment have already been created. These words, however, did not elicit great enthusiasm in the audience.

The Russian industry leaders who have managed to live through reform were asked to familiarize themselves with eight draft edicts on "improving economic health" that the president is going to sign in the near future. The edicts deal with what Boris Yeltsin sees as the three most important problems of the Russian economy. In addition, KOMMERSANT-DAILY learned, they also cover matters concerning relations between the president and the government. Initially, the president planned to sign one blanket edict as early as 19 May, but after the meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin he decided to split it into a number of more specific documents.

Presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told journalists even before the meeting began that Boris Yeltsin opposes centralized credits: "Given on a large scale, they lead to inflation." According to Kostikov, Yeltsin also believes that bankruptcies cannot be avoided altogether because supporting the enterprises that are "obviously unviable would be to burdensome for the state."

How the edicts "ran by" the industrialists is not known yet. It is clear, however, that the president's turning to them for advice in itself, which does not look like a simple political gesture (otherwise a statement on its results would certainly have been adopted), proves that Yeltsin is seriously dissatisfied with the government's performance, although excluding Viktor Chernomyrdin personally, Kostikov said.

Commentary by the Economic Policy Department

The last official meeting Boris Yeltsin held with Russian industrialists took place in the fall of 1991. At the time, on the eve of price liberalization and a drastic change in economic policy, the president's guests included members of the Industrial Union deputy faction, which was made for the most part of state enterprise directors. KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondents who attended the largely symbolical meeting noted how confidently the president felt among economic managers, who demonstrated to him their political conformism, apparently the last trump card of the old economic elite that retained some vestiges of political clout thanks to the existence of the Congress of People's Deputies.

At the end of 1991, the president and Yegor Gaydar, a rising political star, needed to insure themselves against resistance from directors when discussing what was then the main question of economic policy: granting the president extra powers to carry out economic reform. Without them, the Gaydar team's plans could not be put into practice. Having won the confidence of provincial economic managers, Yeltsin subsequently also received the requisite powers at the Fifth Congress.

What is it that the president and his new star, Viktor Chernomyrdin, are trying to insure themselves against this time around? Evidently, the key question for them is post-voucher privatization and the related tide of bankruptcies that will engulf the largest manufacturing enterprises in the first place. Without drastic layoffs they do not stand any chance of surviving. In this situation, the president would like to make the directors his allies, not an enemy who, as ZIL director Yevgeniy Brakov once remarked, are ready "to bring people onto the streets under any banner." Both the Kremlin and the White House fear that this could happen once the edicts on resolving the nonpayment crisis, described by spokesmen for the authorities as "a tough, imperative document," go into force. After all, all talk by the country's leaders with the economic elite about "boosting investment activity," taxation policy, and customs regimes boils down to one simple business principle: "Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

Government Concerned Over Radioactive Waste Pollution

LD1905222594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2051 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Liquid radioactive waste products of the "Zvezda" works in Primorye maritime region will be dropped into the Pacific Ocean, unless urgent measures are taken to collect, preserve and process them, the press centre of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies announced on Thursday.

In expert opinion, the situation at the works is controllable so far, but in three months all the available tanks for collecting the waste products will have been filled to capacity.

The Russian Government instructed the ministries and departments concerned to suggest possible wayouts. The Ministry for Emergencies, the Ministry for Nuclear Industry, the Ministry of Public Health and naval forces proposed several ways to solve the problem, but they cannot be realised for lack of funding.

'Text' of Yeltsin's Greeting To Ecology Body

LD1905225294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1747 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 19 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today sent greetings to the organizers of the All-Russia Days of Protection Against Ecological Danger. The text of the message has been issued by the president's press service:

"To the organizers of, and participants in, the All-Russia Days of Protection against Ecological Danger;

The All-Russia Days of Protection Against Ecological Danger are taking place in our country for the first time, from 15 April to 5 June 1994. I wholeheartedly welcome the initiative to stage them.

I regard the action as timely and necessary.

Protection of the natural environment is one of the Russian state's priority tasks. To ensure ecological safety, the government is drawing up a long-term state strategy that envisages widespread use of the vast potential of Russia's military-industrial complex. I think it will also be useful to have special ecological subunits within the Russian Army that will be able not only to eliminate the serious ecological consequences of their activities, but also to clean up industrially polluted areas, especially in ecological disaster zones.

It is our common duty to combine our efforts and do everything possible to see that our towns and villages are green, and that the air, land, and water at our places of work, in our enterprises, around our own homes and throughout our motherland are pure. Russia needs a program of ecological regeneration. Such a program can only be drawn up by the whole of society—the government, parliament, entrepreneurs, parties, scientists, and public ecological organizations. I support the idea of convening an all-Russia congress on ecology and environmental protection to adopt such a program.

Having inherited our native natural conditions from our ancestors, we, the people of Russia, are obliged to bequeath them to our children and grandchildren in all their original beauty. I sincerely hope that the All-Russia Days of Protection Against Ecological Danger will help us all to recognize the importance and responsibility of this task.

I wish you success, dear friends, in the noble cause of preserving Russia's natural environment.

[signed] B. Yeltsin."

Zhirinovskiy Storms Out of State Duma, Protests TV Report

LD2005075294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0726 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democratic Party faction stormed out of the State Duma on Friday in protest against a TV report claiming that he had paid his faction members 500 US dollars each for voting in favour of the draft budget.

Zhirinovskiy told lawmakers that his party "can no longer tolerate lies and slander in the press". He added that in retaliation he had designed "a complex of measures", but did not elaborate.

The scandal erupted after Nikolay Svanidze, an anchorman of the "Podrobnosti" (details) news programme of the Russian TV announced that Zhirinovskiy is paying his party members.

Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told lawmakers that his deputy Mikhail Mityukov had sent a message to Oleg Poptsov, head of the Russian TV, demanding to sack Svanidze.

However, the anchorman told TASS on Friday that he is ready to submit proofs of his statements in court.

Svanidze denounced Zhirinovskiy's demands to sack him until a court ruling is passed. "I could have with the same success demanded to keep the LDPR leader from work in Duma", he said and added that he is ready to invite Zhirinovskiy to clarify the scandal in the "Podrobnosti" programme.

Resolution Issued on Arms Traders Seeking Foreign Partners

LD1905221394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Russian government has, in a bid to improve cooperation with western nations in arms sales, passed a resolution granting manufacturers of arms and military hardware the right to seek foreign partners independently and sign contracts with them for the export of their surplus products after meeting the government order.

Moscow has thereby virtually eliminated the Rosvooruzheniye concern's monopoly of the arms trade. The concern was set up at the end of last year and, according to Russian Vice-Premier and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, should have become a "holding of other organizations currently involved in arms trading." However, leading arms designers and manufacturers objected to the formation of the concern, seeing in it a threat to the new arms export mechanism created after the break up of the USSR.

Under the new government resolution, arms exporters must prove their suitability to engage in foreign trade and be registered accordingly. They negotiate and pass tactical and technical specifications for certain types of arms and military hardware to partners from countries with which arms trade is not prohibited. Arms manufacturers also have the right to select agents from a list of organizations which have permission to engage in foreign trade in arms.

Russian arms exports have fallen in recent years from approximately 10 million dollars to approximately 2.2 million dollars.

Yeltsin Issues Edict on Social Policy Council

LD1905194894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—Taking into account the acuteness and significance of problems of a social policy, Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on the establishment of a council on a social policy attached to the president of the Russian Federation.

The primary tasks of the council will be to inform the head of state of the processes going on in the social sphere, working out proposals on a strategy of a social policy and its priority directions, the analysis and expertise of drafts of legislative acts on social issues, and the preparation of proposals on the conclusion of inter-state agreements and treaties on social issues.

Ella Panfilova was appointed chairman of the council. This was reported by the Russian president's press service.

Filatov on Minister Helping Solve Chechen Problem

LD1905165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Russian president's chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, said that, with Nikolay Yegorov's appointment as minister of the affairs of nationalities and regional policy, Russia would resolve its disputes with its separatist republic of Chechnya much sooner.

"We are concerned about the crime problem and the position of the poor in that republic," Filatov told Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov on Thursday. "It's not the status of Chechnya or any legal matters that we are concerned about but the maintenance of peace around Chechnya," which is being threatened today by tension between Chechnya and another Russian republic, Dagestan, he said.

"We would like to preclude further impoverishment and even lower living standards in Chechnya. Those matters are giving President Boris Yeltsin a lot of concern," Filatov said.

Yegorov replaces Sergey Shakhray, recently dismissed by Yeltsin as minister of the affairs of nationalities and reginal policy.

Presidential Council Member Views Local Conflicts

PM1905131594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, by Teymuraz Mamaladze; place and date of interview not stated: "Glitter and Poverty of Conflictology"]

[Text] The cobblestone—the classic weapon of the proletariat—has been rejected by the activists of the independent trade union of Russian miners. Were any latter-day Ivan Shadr to think of portraying a hegemon's class impulse he could sculpt him raising a weighty volume on conflictology—the science of settling disputes by peaceful means. Meeting for their spring seminar in Saltykovka near Moscow, the miners strenuously studied the basics of this science.

The miners' extraordinary initiative required the commentary of a knowledgeable person. I found him in the shape of Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, who in this capacity leads the nationalities policy working group and the problems section of the president's analytical center.

[Mamaladze] What do you think of it, I asked Russia's chief conflictologist.

[Pain] It is very symptomatic that the miners turned to conflictology. It is as symptomatic as the signing of the social accord treaty. It looks as though the idea of accord is being confirmed in society as a significant value.

You remember how back in the fall of last year words about war were widely current and various political groups called themselves fronts. Today the majority of these forces are arguing about who is more geared toward accord and who is its main expresser.

[Mamaladze] And how do you explain this change?

[Pain] Partly by what is called "metal fatigue." The Russians are tired not only of their own quarrels but also of conflicts in nearby foreign parts. After all, the umbilical cord of the common state has not yet been cut and everyone is feeling their pernicious consequences.

To some extent the conflicts beyond Russia are saving it from its own conflicts. The experience of bloodshed is sobering. During the nine months of the Tajik conflict over 50,000 people have been killed and nearly four GNP's have been lost. Some 20,000 killed and a destroyed economy—that is the result of the Armenian-Azerbaijani war. There is much the same "harvest" in Georgia.

[Mamaladze] That is entirely correct as regards the umbilical cord. Sergey Yulyevich Vitte—and he was from Tbilisi and knew about the matter at first hand—said: "Until the troubles end in Russia it is impossible to end the troubles in the caucasus." If talk has turned to "salvation" then we must speak of a viewpoint quite widespread in the post-Soviet states: These conflicts are advantageous to Russia as a political lightening conductor on the one hand and on the other as a means of restoring control over key geopolitical zones.

[Pain] Political interest is a leading element of all the major conflicts we know which have developed into interethnic or regional wars—Karabakh, the Dniester Region, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Tajikistan. That means, first, the interest of seizing power when the

political opposition uses outbursts of hostility to crush a rival. Second, this involves holding on to power—those who have it use the energy of a conflict to switch dissatisfaction to particular ethnic or political groups. Finally there is the interest of expanding power, when an outside force turns interethnic or intergroup clashes into a tool for expanding its spheres of influence.

In any conflict these interests are present and interwoven..

It is another question whose interests were expressed by, for instance, the Confederation of Peoples of the caucasus operating in Abkhazia or by the cossacks in the Dniester region or Abkhazia....

[Mamaladze] ...Or in Moscow in the fall of last year with an association of politicians, retired military men, and gunmen from the Dniester Region and Abkhazia for whom the conflicts blazing far from Moscow were fields for their own battles and a nutrient medium.

[Pain] Yes, here too political forces came onto the state and also used outside conflicts in the interests of the struggle for power like, for instance, the internal conflicts in Georgia involving the parties of war and the Zviadist opposition. I once made a special analysis of the timetable for the opposition's acts of provocation and Shevardnadze's initiatives to reach peace in Abkhazia—each peacemaking step was followed by a response which thwarted it.

[Mamaladze] Yet the same happened with Yeltsin's initiatives. By analyzing the relevant timetables we would have obtained approximately the same picture. Incidentally, it would have reflected quite clearly the surprising synchronization of the actions of some politicians here in Moscow, the authorities in Gudaut, the Conference of Peoples of the Caucasus in the North Caucasus, and the Zviadists in Georgia.

I do not think they needed the services of conflictology.

[Pain] In actual fact conflictology would be suitable for everyone as long as expectations are not made excessively high, of course: The myth of the omnipotence of science is an offshoot of the myth of the omnipotence of the state. In the West conflictology is achieving quite considerable successes when the sides want to reach agreement, realizing how much they are losing from the unabating conflict situation.

In ethnopolitical conflicts as a rule the groups which do not want conciliation gain the upper hand. Then apart from political interests there are operating alongside them, in parallel or interwoven, the pragmatic criminal interests of mafia groups which extract colossal profits from the trade in weapons, drugs, and hostages, from the appropriation of property, and the establishment of control over sources of material benefits.

[Mamaladze] According to some figures this business based on blood brings its participants a profit of tens of millions of U.S. dollars. And all this is shielded by the banner of the national idea. In this connection it would be of some use to touch on the role of various ideas in the kindling of conflicts. For instance, history interpreted in a self-seeking way is most often used to justify claims to territory and status. Historians pave the way for detachments of gunmen. Their disputes over "who came to this land first" are transferred to the battle fields, turning into bloody disputes between the peoples.

[Pain] Where there is no developed legal consciousness, no developed legal and political culture, and they do not yet exist and cannot exist in post-totalitarian societies, they are replaced by so-called historical or mythological truth. Conflicts contain no more powerful detonator than myth....

[Mamaladze] In other words we are dealing with the exploitation of a myth for political purposes?

[Pain] Undoubtedly. In general I must say that a kind of "philosophy of prejudice" as the basis for making political decisions is taking shape before our eyes.

For instance, after the 12 December elections many politicians in Russia concluded that nationalism was growing and that it was necessary to use it to consolidate society. That idea is utterly illusory and at the same time extremely dangerous. The plans to adapt nationalist slogans to the aims of consolidating society have not been successfully implemented in Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, or Lithuania. Still less will this be successfully done in Russia now, in an atmosphere of people's mounting revulsion toward politics.

To judge by the polls of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions Zhirinovskiy's party is losing its supporters more rapidly than all other political parties. The same studies show that today no more than 1-2 percent of Russians support the so-called national patriotic movement—that is far lower than support for national movements in any other state of the former Union except perhaps for Belorussia [Belarus]. The leaders of the cossack movement, whose influence has also been greatly exaggerated, also failed to gain support not only at the parliamentary elections but also at the local ones.

At the same time just talking about the need to grant special political rights to the ethnic majority or some other population group, the cossacks, for instance, can be enough to arouse national separatist feelings in some republics of the Federation.

I consider the anti-Western feelings which are developing in a particular political environment, for instance the Duma environment, to be a very dangerous prejudice. This prejudice can not only cast Russia's foreign policy back to the Cold War but can also drastically aggravate the domestic political situation since the revival of the ideas of the West's intrigues intensifies the atmosphere of fear and suspicion in society.

But on the other hand the West is not lacking as regards prejudices against Russia. You are simply amazed at how powerfully some Western minds have been gripped by the prejudice that the position of Russians in a number of countries of nearby foreign parts is merely a question of acts of provocation by a few Russian groups of nationalist orientation and not of the problem of legal and actual discrimination that really exists.

[Mamaladze] Some of your Presidential Council colleagues have developed the concept of Russia's special rights and interests throughout the post-Soviet area, a kind of Russian "Monroe doctrine." After it had been widely publicized you could not convince the politicians and public of adjacent countries that their fears regarding Russia's neo-imperial ambitions were unjustified.

Please open the doors of the presidential kitchen. Is the opinion that there are too many cooks in this kitchen and that each has his own recipe for stew a prejudice?

[Pain] I am no expert in political cuisine. I shall merely say that indeed too many cooks spoil the broth. We have about 10 departments studying the problem of interethnic relations and conflicts.

But it must not be forgotten that there is a president and the role of his personal decisions is great. If in some critical situations he had not taken personal control their greater aggravation could have been forecast.

[Mamaladze] I remember about two years ago there was talk of a single state system for preventing conflicts in the Russian Federation. Is it taking shape somehow?

[Pain] No, and I would not pin too much hope on such a system. As long as there is disagreement in decision-making because of contradictory department interests, no institution of power will definitively and fully ensure accord in society?

[Mamaladze] And the Treaty on Accord?

[Pain] It is only the precursor of the authorities' ability to lead matters toward the coordination of interests. But neither this act nor the structural innovations themselves can in themselves do what society as a whole cannot do.

[Mamaladze] You mean that so far it cannot rid itself of traditional ideas and feelings?

[Pain] In society several ideologies exist at the same time—extremely popular and just as contradictory.. The ideology of the classic imperial approach and its most colorful and consistent expresser—Mr. Zhirinovskiy. The ideology of soft "respectable" expansionism in the approaches to the post-Soviet area—"we must annex not everything but only what can easily be grabbed." Finally, there is the ideology of complete isolationism, manifested so clearly during talks on the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belorussia.

[Mamaladze] So where are these ideas actually circulating—in society or in the corridors of power?

[Pain] Public opinion polls show that 70 percent of Russians oppose the imperial idea in the "Zhirinovskiy" or respectable packaging. You only have to put the question specifically: "Do you want an association in which the inflation level will increase still further?" for the majority to answer "no."

How the authorities interpret and use public feelings is another matter. These people today are more great power-oriented, more nationalist, than the population. I repeat, there is no mass chauvinism, there is the "philosophy of prejudice" which serves the political interests of certain groups in the power structures, and it is particularly dangerous when it is made out to be the voice of the people.

[Mamaladze] Who is making this out? Which authorities?

[Pain] A very substantial proportion of the middle-echelon management apparatus and local apparatus—the former party and economic aktiv. "We do not have the right to fail to consider the masses' feelings," they say, as though they were not speaking on their own behalf. In fact this is nothing other than attempts to grab the banner of great-powerdom from the opposition, which has monopolized this idea and will not surrender it for anything.

[Mamaladze] We are talking in the building of the former CPSU Central Committee, your office once belonged to a department chief. Someone called you and those like you "democratic flies" which have flown into the thick soup of autocracy. What are you doing here? To what extent are the results of your research called for by those for whom you work?

[Pain] Clearly not 100 percent. Even ideally they cannot by called for 100 percent: There is a big difference between the responsibility of the expert and the responsibility of the political decisionmaker. But our opinion—I am not only talking of myself—is heeded and some ideas are put to work, often producing a positive result.

[Mamaladze] I would be delighted at this fact but reality prevents it. "Nationally minded people" continue to nurture destructive plans. The experience of bloodshed is by no means sobering, on the contrary.... Some "preserved" conflicts are smoldering under the "cover" of emergency measures. Territorial wars are continuing. And talks on a full-scale political settlement of conflicts are being disrupted before our eyes time after time.

What is your prediction on this score?

[Pain] There are no eternal conflicts, sooner or later they subside—that is the postulate of conflictology, checked by historical practice. And although, most unfortunately, interethnic wars have a corrupting effect on specific people, adapting their awareness toward the horrors of living in an atmosphere of violence and fear, "metal

fatigue" does nonetheless ensue. The politicians' task is to catch that point in the conflict's trajectory at which talks will produce the best result.

Despite the disappointing results of the talks an analysis of the situation leads to the prediction that a favorable political situation will take shape in a number of trouble spots. An understanding is developing of the fact that military victory cannot be one either by our own forces or by those of a "third party."

However much we may be concerned for peacekeeping operations they will not achieve their aim unless they are supported by the implementation of joint interests. Armies are good when you have to separate sides but it is not armies that extinguish conflicts but banks, corporations, joint ventures, and projects for mutually advantageous undertakings. And I can only rejoice that this idea is finally in political circulation on an equal footing with formulas for demilitarizing conflict zones and the safe return of refugees.

Culture, Science Workers Join Social Accord Agreement

LD1905153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Svistunova and Igor Veksler]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—"The signing of an agreement on civic accord which began 20 days ago gave a positive impetus to socio-political processes in the Russian Federation. The document changes the character of political relations in the country and creates a basis for the beginning of the unification of all strata of Russian society," said Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko, opening a signing ceremony which took place in the St. Vladimir Hall in the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

Representatives of creative associations, scientific organisations, workers of culture and science put their signatures under the agreement.

The process of signing the agreement began by a ceremonial act in the Kremlin attended by the Russian president, prime minister, representatives of both chambers of the Russian parliament, representatives of the subjects of the Federation, leaders of a number of parties, public and religious associations. The agreement is open to representatives of any political forces coming out for peace and accord in the country, for strengthening state power and surmounting the socio-economic crisis.

Yeltsin Rejects Resignation of Moscow Intelligence Chief

MK1905115094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Moscow Chekists Came Close to Losing Their Head"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from reliable sources that yesterday the president turned down a resignation request from Major General Yevgeniy Savostyanov, chief of Moscow's directorate of the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS].

Rumors of Savostyanov's imminent resignation had been around for several weeks. The request was finally written but turned down. Various things are being said about the major general's wish to resign. According to one guess, Savostyanov decided to go into politics. Many staffers in his directorate however think their boss is simply in a hurry. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has information that Sergey Stepashin, FCS director, would like to see Cherkasov, the current chief of the St. Petersburg FCS directorate, occupying the Moscow directorate. Stepashin has been friends with Cherkasov for a long time and he interceded for him at the time of the repeat certification procedure.

Intelligence Services Confer on Cooperation

MK1905070494 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[A.P. report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Joint Collegium of the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Russian Security Council"]

[Text] A joint sitting of the collegiums of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] and the Russian External Intelligence Service [REIS] is to take place in Moscow today. It will discuss questions concerning cooperation between the two services. Such measures are envisioned under the Agreement of Cooperation between the FCS and the REIS signed this year.

Further on Shumeyko Remarks to Journalists

PM1905102994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Olga Gerasimenko report under "Very Personal" rubric: "Shumeyko Is a Cossack, Although He Has a Ukrainian Surname"]

[Text] Yesterday journalists were invited to the Federation Council for another rendezvous with Vladimir Shumeyko. In his characteristic manner the speaker of the upper chamber of parliament talked a lot, mainly in hints. From Shumeyko's replies to written questions submitted the previous day the journalists learned that Vladimir Shumeyko is a Cossack, although he has a

Ukrainian surname, that he was most comfortable in the post of general director of a Krasnodar plant, where "there was real power," and that he, Shumeyko, has many pluses as a politician: communicability and loyalty to his political ideals regardless of the political situation. Vladimir Filippovich admitted that at first he had had a hard time in Moscow because of his provincial origins, but then life hardened him.

Answering the journalists' meticulous questions about the cadre leapfrogging going on in the state, Shumeyko did not hide the fact that he was directly involved in forming the Cabinet of Ministers just once—in December 1992—and even then on the president's direct orders. He made literally this assessment of the present premier's activity: "Russia is lucky that Chernomyrdin is the premier at this stage." Vladimir Filippovich spoke severely of Shakhray, who had resigned the previous day, declaring that this will have no effect whatever on the state of interregional problems, with the possible exception that "with Yegorov's accession the resolution of these problems will move from the theoretical phase to the phase of their practical resolution."

Shumeyko was understanding about Nikolay Travkin's recent ministerial appointment, declaring that Russia needs people with practical experience. The speaker of the Federation Council did not deny that he has close ties to the president, but exactly as much as is necessary to engage in joint state activity.

He complained: "I have been told repeatedly that I am Yeltsin's man, and he constantly transfers me now to parliament, now to the executive. But I have never been unfaithful to myself: I favor strong state power, and this is why I am in the president's team."

Economic Issues

Moscow City Court Declares Pilots' Strike Illegal

LD1905141594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The suit filed by the procurator general's office against the pilots' union was heard today at the Moscow city court. [video shows O.A. Yegorova, captioned as member of the civil commission of the Moscow city court]

[Yegorova] The court decided that the strike, announced and carried out by the pilots' union of the Russian Federation, is illegal. In accordance with the 20 May 1991 law on procedures for resolving collective labor disputes, in particular Article 12, which states that public transportation, which includes civil aviation, cannot settle its problems, disputes, or conflicts through strikes.

[Announcer] Union representatives, who in general agreed with the court's decision, nevertheless think that the law providing for such situations contains contradictions. According to the new Constitution of the Russian federation, they do have a right to strike in order to settle their labor disputes.

Right now pilots are discussing their demands at the Labor Ministry. Their main demand is an increase in pensions. According to the pilots' union, veteran pilots receive from the pension fund only one-fifth of the sum paid to the fund by the civil aviation department.

Yeltsin Aide Calls For More Rapid Reforms

PM1805154194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under "In the Government" rubric: "Danger of Pressure From Lobby Groups"]

[Text] For the few months it has been in power Viktor Chernomyrdin's government has managed to achieve a positive result as regards curbing inflation, but there is a danger that the cabinet, under pressure from agrarian and military-industrial complex lobby groups, will make undesirable adjustments to monetary and credit policy. This was stated by Yevgeniy Yasin, leader of the Russian Federation president's analysis center.

In his opinion the rate of the reforms has slowed down somewhat in the same period. "We could and should have moved faster," he said. Yasin believes that the government's main task is "not to hold up the processes begun in 1992 but to provide the opportunity to implement the transformations at the level of enterprises and regions."

Economic Effect of Strikes Assessed

PM1905091994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov article under "Social Focus" rubric: "The Cost of Strikes"]

[Text] It seems that strikes have become a truly national affliction in the conditions of our undeveloped democracy (not to be confused with "developed socialism"). Everyone is striking: miners and metallurgists, teachers and ambulance personnel....

While 18,200 people participated in strikes in the first quarter of last year, the figure was 114,500 in the first quarter of this year. And second place in the list of strikers, after the Trojans in the fuel and energy complex (87,000 people), was taken by education workers (24,700).

It hardly need be explained why these people are striking. Very tough labor conditions and low wages (as applied to these two polarized spheres of people's activity) are inducing them to take extreme protest measures.

This fact cannot fail to draw the attention of independent experts. Why exactly are two extremes—the working class elite and the intelligentsia elite—coming together in protest actions?

The answer is unusually simple. These two particular social categories of the population have felt the greatest loss—both material and moral—during the ill-considered and hasty economic reforms.

We will recall that the profession of schoolteacher has always enjoyed special esteem in Rus. Soviet rule did substantial damage to that prestige. Yet there were still zealots in our country who valued their work much more highly than immediate worldly benefits. But that is not why teachers, who have been suffered material harm for the umpteenth time, are striking now. Schools are collapsing—their world is collapsing. Demanding money for teaching peasant children—excuse me, but this does not happen in any civilized country.

And the miners? They were always considered the pride of the working class. Now it would seem that a completely democratic procedure to coordinate the interests and mutual demands of workers, employers, and executive branch organs has been devised—a trilateral commission.

But the whole trouble is that the agreements being adopted are not being implemented, and the fault lies with the executive. This is what causes many strikes: the failure to implement tariff agreements, the budget debt as regards the financing of research and maintenance and repair work, the poor level of technical equipment, a lack of resources for acquiring medical and school equipment, etc.

But strikes are by no means destroying the national economy's work. Maybe that is why the powers-that-be have a calm attitude to them. For instance, in the first quarter of this year output worth a total of only 8.8 billion rubles [R] was lost as a result of strikes. This includes R8.2 billion in the fuel and energy complex.

A drop in the ocean when compared to the losses we are incurring because of the continuing objective production recession (25 percent for the first half of the year, according to expert estimates).

But besides the material harm there is the damage to morale, which can lead to social cataclysms. Unfortunately nobody wants to take that into account.

Latest Increases in Energy Prices Listed

PM1905113994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 6

[Article by Irina Goryacheva, chief of the Russian Federation Government Economics Trends Center Analysis and Price Forecasting Administration: "Energy Getting Dearer, But Not For Everyone Equally"]

[Text] Average price growth for energy resources in April was 9.6 percent. Electricity was up most—by 14.4 percent—while prices for raw-material energy resources increased by 9.2 percent, and oil refining industry output was up by 4.6 percent. As a whole, the main types of energy resources have increased by 90 percent since the start of the year, including increases of 120 percent for raw materials, 90 percent for electricity, and 60 percent for petroleum products.

Among the types of raw-material energy resources surveyed (oil, coal, and gas) the biggest price rise this April was for coal—17.4 percent (6.5 percent in March, an increase of 80 percent since the start of the year). The variation in the average price of coal in different economic regions was 2.2. times.

Among raw-material energy resources the smallest rise over the month was recorded for oil—up 6.5 percent (19 percent in March, an increase of 110 percent since the start of the year). Oil prices varied by up to 2.5 times in different economic regions.

The increase in the price of oil-refining industry products was 4.6 percent in April—up 60 percent since the start of the year. The largest increase over the month was recorded for motor vehicle oils (up 50.4 percent). Since the start of the year the biggest increases have been recorded by motor vehicle oils (up 110 percent), lubricating oils (up 80 percent), and fuel oil and bitumen (70 percent). The largest regional variations in the price of the refined petroleum products surveyed were for diesel fuel and bitumen at around three times.

In April, as in March, the rate of increase in retail prices for gasoline (10.9 percent) exceeded the change in the average price charged for it by producer enterprises (5.6 percent). The average retail price for gasoline in the Russian Federation was 284 rubles [R] a liter—80 percent higher than producer enterprises' prices (R156).

Power station prices for electricity increased by 14 percent in April. This increase was mainly recorded at power stations in the Northern and Central Regions—up 24 percent. Rates at power stations in the Central Chernozem and Far East Regions remained virtually at the March level. In late April the average price of 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity in Russia was R31,000. The highest electricity charges continued to be recorded in the Far East Region (R45,000), while the lowest were in the East Siberia Region (R18,000).

Media Issues

Decree on Television, Radio Broadcasting

PM2005114194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 458 "On the Russian Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the

Russian Federation Government, and dated Moscow, 7 May 1994; followed by the "Statute on the Russian Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service and Its Structure"]

[Text] In implementation of the Russian Federation [RF] President's Edict No. 2255 of 22 December 1993 "On Improving State Management in the Sphere of Mass Information" (Sobraniye Aktov Prezidenta i Pravitelstva Rossiyskoy Federatsii, 1993, No. 52, page 5067) the RF Government decrees that:

1. The appended Statute on the Russian Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service [RFTRBS] and its structure is hereby ratified.

2. The maximum number of personnel of the RFTRBS central apparatus (excluding personnel involved in the guarding and maintenance of buildings) shall be set at 253.

The RF Ministry of Finance jointly with the RFTRBS shall submit proposals within two weeks to the RF Government regarding the size of the wages fund for RFTRBS central apparatus personnel.

3. The head of the RFTRBS shall be given authorization to have five deputies, including one first deputy, and an 11-member collegium.

4. Expenditure on the upkeep of the RFTRBS central apparatus shall be funded from federal budget appropriations for the upkeep of federal executive bodies.

5. The RF State Committee for the Management of State Property shall register the transfer of state property in federal ownership to the operational management of the RFTRBS in accordance with the appendix.

Point 5 of RF Government Decree No. 180 of 3 March 1994 "Questions of the RF Committee for the Press" (Sobraniye Aktov Prezidenta i Pravitelstva Rossiyskoy Federatsii, 1994, No. 10, page 796) shall be deemed invalid insofar as it concerns the transfer to the operational management of the RF Committee for the Press of the building located at No. 12. Ulitsa Kachalova, Moscow.

6. The RFTRBS:

jointly with the RF Ministry of Communications and other interested ministries and departments shall submit to the RF Government within a month proposals pertaining to the procedure for the registration and licensing of state and nonstate television and radio broadcasting organizations;

jointly with the RF Ministry of Finance and state television and radio broadcasting organizations shall bring the amounts of state television and radio broadcasting into line with the scale of federal budget funding for it within the month;

shall submit proposals within the month to the RF Government on the reorganization of the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Company.

7. The RF Ministry of Finance shall fund Russia-wide and regional state television and radio broadcasting organizations in accordance with prescribed procedure via the RFTRBS.

8. The payment procedure in respect of services rendered in the dissemination of television and radio programs services directly among Russia-wide and regional television and radio broadcasting organizations and RF Ministry of Communications enterprises on a contractual basis shall be retained.

9. The RFTRBS shall supervise the targeted use of federal budget appropriations for the upkeep of Russia-wide and regional state television and radio broadcasting organizations and payment for RF Ministry of Communications enterprises' services in the dissemination of television and radio programs.

10. It is laid down that the State Fund for Television and Radio Programs and the Institute for the Further Training of Television and Radio Broadcasting Personnel are state establishments under the jurisdiction of the RFTRBS.

11. The names of the head of the RFTRBS and his deputies shall be added to the list of officials authorized to issue "government" cables at priority precedence, ratified by RF Government Decree No. 374 of 23 April 1994 "On Ratifying the Rules for the Provision of Telegraph Communications Services."

12. The RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall provide the RFTRBS with passport and visas services in accordance with prescribed procedure.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the RF Government.
Moscow, 7 May 1994.

Statute on the RFTRBS

1. The RFTRBS is formed in accordance with the RF president's Edict No. 2255 of 22 December 1993 "On Improving State Management in the Sphere of Mass Information" and is a federal organ of executive power which ensures the implementation of state policy in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting, monitors the technical quality of broadcasting, and provides scientific support and cadre training in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting.

2. The RFTRBS is guided in its activity by the RF Constitution, the laws and other legislative acts of the RF, the edicts and directives of the RF president, the decrees and directives of the RF Government, international agreements in the sphere of the mass media and telecommunications, and also by this Decree.

3. The RFTRBS is a corporate entity and has a a payment account and other accounts, including hard-currency accounts, in banking establishments, plus a seal carrying the RF State Emblem and its name.

The RFTRBS does not implement its own television and radio broadcasting.

4. The activity of the RFTRBS is financed by federal budget funds, extrabudgetary funds, and other funds formed in accordance with current legislation.

The RFTRBS central apparatus is funded by federal budget funds used for the upkeep of federal executive bodies.

5. The property of the RFTRBS is federal property and is assigned to the RFTRBS for operational management.

6. The RFTRBS is based at No. 25, Pyatnitskaya Ulitsa, Moscow.

7. The RFTRBS's main tasks are:

the formulation of measures designed to implement state policy in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting in the RF;

the formulation and implementation of measures for the development, reorganization, utilization, standardization, and certification of the technical base of television and radio broadcasting, the creation of new television and radio broadcasting organizations, and the monitoring of technical quality in broadcasting;

the registration and licensing of state and nonstate television and radio broadcasting organizations;

the analysis of economic, social, technical, and legal problems in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting and the formulation of proposals to resolve them;

the coordination of the activity of Russia-wide and regional state television and radio organizations, the leadership of organizations, enterprises, and establishments under RFTRBS jurisdiction;

participation in international cooperation in the sphere of television and radio in accordance with prescribed procedure.

8. In order to carry out its assigned tasks the RFTRBS:

formulates jointly with ministries and departments long-term forecasts and plans for the development of television and radio broadcasting in the RF:

formulates and submits to the RF Government proposals pertaining to the improvement of the normative base in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting;

acts as a state customer for the development of new concepts, technologies, and technical facilities for the preparation and formation of television and radio programs;

organizes material and technical support for the activity of enterprises, establishments, and organizations under its jurisdiction;

provides methodological and organizational-technical assistance to Russia-wide and regional television and radio organizations in their activity;

promotes entrepreneurial activity in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting;

monitors television and radio broadcasting organizations' implementation of the commitments envisaged by their television and radio broadcasting license;

analyzes the technical quality of television and radio programs and takes the requisite steps in accordance with existing normative acts in the event of a breach of state standards;

participates in work carried out by the RF Ministry of Communications to formulate plans and technology for the most effective use of facilities for the transmission of television and radio programs, and the formation of television and radio broadcasting switching and distribution circuits;

implements measures connected with safeguarding the activity of the RFTRBS, state television and radio organizations, and other organizations and establishments under the jurisdiction of the RFTRBS in emergency situations as laid down by current RF legislation;

funds Russia-wide and regional state television and radio broadcasting organizations and also supervises the targeted expenditure of the allocated funds;

participates in formulating, coordinating, and introducing standards, technical conditions, and other normative-technical documentation in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting;

determines, jointly with the RF Ministry of Communications, a series of measures to provide metrological backup in order to achieve uniformity and the necessary precision of measurement in television and radio broadcasting;

participates in accordance with prescribed procedure jointly with the RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other interested organizations in the formulation of international treaties and interdepartmental agreements in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting and also in the formulation of the RF's position on questions of television and radio broadcasting in international organizations and at international conferences;

promotes in accordance with prescribed procedure organizational and technical support for the work of the Russian section of the European Radio Broadcasting Union's technical commission;

formulates a technical-economic and normative base for the activity of state and nonstate television and radio

organizations, takes part in the formulation of tariffs for the services of communications enterprises which disseminate television and radio programs;

jointly with the RF Ministry of Labor takes part in the formulation of sectoral normative acts on labor protection;

organizes work to provide enterprises, establishments, and organizations under RFTRBS jurisdiction with cadres, train and enhance the qualifications of cadres for television and radio broadcasting;

participates in the formulation of draft legislative and other normative acts in the sphere of activity of television and radio broadcasting and other mass media.

9. The RFTRBS within the bounds of its competence has the right:

to request and obtain the requisite information, documents, and materials in accordance with the procedure prescribed by current legislation from state and other organs, establishments, organizations, and officials;

to recruit in accordance with prescribed procedure scientific organizations, personnel from state establishments and organizations, specialists, and experts, including foreigners, to carry out work on draft laws, expert and research studies and consultations and to set up temporary creative collectives;

to send personnel on assignments to exchange experience and tours of duty, including tours abroad;

to create in accordance with prescribed procedure establishments and organizations to safeguard the activity of the RFTRBS, establishments, enterprises, and organizations under its jurisdiction and set up mass media operating in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting;

to submit proposals regarding the candidacy of the RFTRBS representative on the State Commission for Electrical Communications and on other interdepartmental commissions.

10. The RFTRBS is headed by a leader appointed by the president of the RF on the submission of the chairman of the RF Government.

The leader of the RFTRBS has deputies, including one first deputy, who are appointed and dismissed by the RF Government.

The leader of the RFTRBS directs the activity of the RFTRBS on the basis of one-man command and is personally liable for fulfillment of the RFTRBS's assigned tasks.

11. The leader of the RFTRBS:

submits in accordance with prescribed procedure for the consideration of the RF Government draft normative acts on questions ascribed to the competence of the RFTRBS;

approves within the limits of the prescribed numerical strength and wages fund for central apparatus personnel the RFTRBS establishment along with estimated spending on the upkeep of the central apparatus within the limits of the appropriations approved for the relevant period;

allocates duties among deputy leaders and leaders of structural subunits;

issues orders on the basis of and in implementation of normative acts within the competence of the RFTRBS, gives instructions for mandatory implementation by RFTRBS officials, enterprises, establishments, and organizations under its jurisdiction, and also monitors their implementation in accordance with prescribed procedure;

hires and dismisses RFTRBS personnel as well as the leaders of enterprises, establishments, and organizations under RFTRBS jurisdiction in accordance with prescribed procedure;

ratifies statutes on structural subunits of the RFTRBS as well as statutes on establishments under RFTRBS jurisdiction and the charters of subordinate enterprises and organizations;

ensures in accordance with prescribed procedure RFTRBS cooperation with RF representative and executive bodies on questions ascribed to RFTRBS competence;

takes other necessary steps to safeguard RFTRBS activity.

12. A collegium is to be formed within the RFTRBS comprising the leader of the RFTRBS (the chairman), his deputies ex officio, and also other leadership personnel in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting.

Members of the collegium, apart from its ex officio members, are ratified by the RF Government.

Decrees are adopted in respect of questions examined at collegium sessions and are generally implemented in the form of orders of the RFTRBS leader.

13. Expert councils and commissions may be set up under the RFTRBS. The central apparatus of the RFTRBS provides them with organizational and technical support. Statutes on the councils and commissions and their personnel are ratified by the leader of the RFTRBS.

14. The reorganization or elimination of the RFTRBS is to be effected in accordance with procedure prescribed by current legislation.

The Structure of the Central Apparatus of the RFTRBS

Leadership
Administration of Affairs
Information and Analysis Administration
Finance and Economic Analysis Administration
Engineering and Technical Administration
Capital Construction and Equipment [komplektatsiya] Administration
State Technical Inspectorate for Television and Radio Broadcasting (as an administration)
Administration for the Registration and Licensing of State and Nonstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations
Cadre and Staff Training Administration
Foreign Relations Administration
Chief Accountant's Office.

RIA-NOVOSTI Charter Ratified 3 May

PM1905120394 Moscow ROSSI[illegible]AYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 First Edit[illegible]

[Decree no. 429 of the Russian Federation Government "On Ratifying the Charter of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-NOVOSTI," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and dated 3 May 1994]

[Text] In accordance with Russian Federation [RF] presidential edict no. 2278 of 23 December 1993 "On Ensuring the Activity of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-NOVOSTI" the RF Government decrees that:

1. The appended RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-NOVOSTI Charter adopted by the labor collective of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-NOVOSTI (hereinafter RIA-NOVOSTI) is to be ratified.

2. The RF State Committee for the Management of State Property is to officially register in accordance with prescribed procedure the assignation to RIA-NOVOSTI of property which is in federal ownership, along with property acquired with federal budget funds and used by the agency to pursue its statutory activity.

3. As of 1994 the RF Ministry of the Economy, when deciding the basic indicators of the RF state investment program, is to stipulate for RIA-NOVOSTI in a separate paragraph the limits of state centralized capital investments funded from the federal budget for capital construction and the acquisition of equipment.

4. The Moscow Government is to be advised to consider the question of allocating to RIA-NOVOSTI a downtown plot of land for the construction of an apartment block for agency personnel.

5. The Moscow Oblast Administration is to be advised to consider the question of allocating a three-hectare plot of land in the vicinity of Moscow for individual construction and development by RIA-NOVOSTI staffers.

6. RIA-NOVOSTI is to be authorized to build an editorial and production complex.

7. Point 1, Paragrah 1 of RF Council of Ministers-Government decree no. 922 of 16 September 1993 "Questions of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-NOVOSTI" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 38, 1993, p 3577) is to be deemed invalid.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the RF Government

[Dated] Moscow, 3 May 1994

Editorial Office note: The RIA-NOVOSTI Charter is not cited.

ITAR-TASS Charter Ratified 4 May

PM1905120594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree no. 426 of the Russian Federation Government "On Ratifying the Charter of the INFORMATION TELEGRAPH AGENCY OF RUSSIA," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and dated 4 May 1994]

[Text] In implementation of the Russian Federation [RF] president's edict no. 2257 of 22 December 1993 "On the INFORMATION TELEGRAPH AGENCY OF RUSSIA," the RF Government decrees that:

1. The appended Charter of the INFORMATION TELEGRAPH AGENCY OF RUSSIA adopted by the agency's labor collective is to be ratified.

2. The RF State Committee for the Management of State Property is to register in accordance with prescribed procedure the assignation to the INFORMATION TELEGRAPH AGENCY OF RUSSIA of property which is in federal ownership, along with property acquired with federal budget funds and used by the agency to pursue its statutory activity.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the RF Government

[Dated] Moscow, 4 May 1994

Editorial Office note: The Charter of the INFORMATION TELEGRAPH AGENCY OF RUSSIA is not cited.

'Tsentr' TV Company To Start Broadcasting 21 May

LD2005083094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The "Tsentr" TV company starts broadcasting early on Saturday morning [May 21] on Ostankino's First Channel. This is the so called channel for late night viewers. It will start operating at 0145 hours [0945

GMT]. In the first broadcast you can watch the French film "The Snatch Squad." In the long-term, the organizers are planning various entertaining topics, together with reportage on the life of nocturnal Moscow.

Military Issues

Communications Satellite Launched From Baykonur

LD2005050694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0501 GMT 20 May 94

[by itar-tass string correspondent semyon ivanov]

[Text] Moscow May 20—A Gorizont communications and telecasting satellite was launched from Site 81 of the Baykonur Cosmodrome at 05.01, Moscow Daylight Saving Time, on Friday by Russian Space Defence Forces (SDF).

The satellite was lofted into space atop a heavy-duty three-stage Proton-K booster rocket with a Dm-2 boost section.

This is the second Gorizont satellite launched under a contract between Russia and the U.S. Rimsat company (the first one was launched on November 18, 1993).

The contract provides for the launching of seven Russian satellites—three Gorizont ones and four Express ones—within the period of September 1993 to March 1996. They are put into geostationary orbits with fixed postions over the Pacific Ocean region. The full value of the contgract is 150 million U.S. dollars.

The successful launch was watched by Rimsat company representatives, a spokesman at the SDF press centre told ITAR-TASS.

The launch was the 210th one since 1967 when a Proton-K booster rocket was used for the first time and the 188th successful one.

New Military Rapid Deployment Force Formed

LD1905192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1815 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—Russia sets up a new structure in its armed Forces—mobile forces which will include rapid deployment forces and instant reaction forces, Colonel-General Vladimir Semyonov, commander-in-chief of these forces, told a news conference at the main headquarters of the land forces today.

According to the general, these changes are envisaged by the military reform and requirements of the main provisions of Russia's military doctrine. Vladimir Semyonov called the establishment of the mobile forces a "coerced measure".

"We were forced to do this due to the current political situation in Russia and the new views developed by military science and strategy," the commander-in-chief said.

The mobile forces, the colonel-general noted, will be used at a "threatening period". With the outbreak of local and other conflicts, Vladimir Semyonov noted, these forces will be moved to the necessary regions "for a short period of time". For instant- reaction forces this period will be twenty-four hours and for rapid deployment forces—several days.

The commander-in-chief determined some tasks to be resolved by the mobile forces: The inadmissibility of spreading of local conflicts, the localization of large scale conflicts and the creation of conditions for strategical deployment of Russian Armed Forces.

The colonel-general believes that the mobile forces will be best staffed in the Russian Armed Forces. They will also include units and subunits of land and airborne troops, military transport and combat aircraft and other units from fighting services and branches of arms.

Spokesman Cites Yeltsin's Fears Over Defense Budget

LD1905164994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov quoted Yeltsin as saying that the administration did not believe the Duma-approved 37 billion rubles defence budget was adequate enough to meet all of the Army's outstanding requirements. However, despite verbal declarations of sympathy with the Russian Army's hardships, it was this budget that opposition parties such as Liberal Democrats, Communists and others had approved in its first reading, Kostikov said.

In his words, there is a ploy behind the parliamentary move aimed to put the Army on a ration so as to bring it into head on collision with the president. "The president is well aware of this behind-the-scenes political gambling".

On the country's further defence spending, Kostikov said that it would make no sense to increase military expenditure given that the Russian Army was to be trimmed down. But to try to keep it at last year's level proceeding from the 1993 prices was a different matter altogether, Kostikov said.

However, he made it clear that an increase in this year's defence budget would not be made at the cost of public spending.

Yeltsin Supports Moderate Arms Spending Rise

LD1905124694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—The Russian president stands for preserving the defence budget at the last year's level in comparable prices, without precluding its possible moderate growth, presidential press secretary

Vyacheslav Kostikov told a briefing on Thursday in reply to an ITAR-TASS question.

However, Boris Yeltsin does not intend to yield to lobbying and to permit its sharp rise: such a disbalance is fraught with an increase in social tension.

The press secretary called attention to the fact that "communist-Zhirinovskiy opposition", speaking in words about their loyalty to the army, voted at the Russian parliament lower house for a minimum defence budget for tactical reasons.

According to Kostikov, it wants to give hand-outs to the army, causing dissatisfaction there, and to put it at loggerheads with the president.

Kostikov also expressed the president's concern over the continued campaign in some media against Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

"The president does not see clearly reasons behind it. There are no real grounds to say that there is misunderstanding between the president and the defence minister," he stressed.

"The president declares his full political and moral support for Pavel Grachev. But at the same time, he does not want to show that he has no serious claims to the minister," Kostikov continued, adding that Yeltsin is not satisfied with progress of the military reform.

Yeltsin Rejects New Army Uniform

MK1805124494 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Minister Is Unclothed!"]

[Text] President Yeltsin has refused to approve the new Russian army uniform sported by Pavel Grachev and the entire Defense Ministry. Grachev's service jacket has been deemed reminiscent of a Latin American dictator's outfit. It is noteworthy that Pavel Grachev has worn his uniform illegally. Being part of the Russian state trappings, it is subject to approval by a special legislative enactment.

Several hundred billion rubles has been spent on designing the "Grachev-style" uniform. Under the orders of the USSR Defense Ministry still in effect, a new uniform, just like any other innovation, should have been first tested in a particular military unit in what is called "experimental wearing" so as to identify and take into account all the shortfalls and wishes by the military and then have it approved. This has not been done: The new uniform was simply presented to the top brass. Emulating their bosses, lower-ranking Defense Ministry apparatchiks also donned it. At present yet another new uniform is hastily being designed, based on Russian national traditions.

Interestingly, the designers of the "Grachev" uniform seem to have vanished into thin air: no one knows who they are. As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned, Colonel Ivan Prekhno, chief of the Uniform Design Department, is about to resign.

Tu-160 Bomber Production Halted

PM2005081594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1325 GMT 17 May 94

[From the "M-Trust" program: Announcer-read report over video of Tu-160]

[Text] The Kazan Aviation Association named for Gorbunov has halted production of the Tu-160 strategic missile carriers, the POSTFAKTUM AERO Agency reports.

Each such plane costs several billion rubles. The last few to have been produced are yet to be claimed and paid for by the Army. They remain at the plant.

Army Commander Semenov's News Conference Previewed

MK1905113694 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 May 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov report under the "Generals on Military Budget" rubric: "The Army and Hope Are the Last To Die"]

[Text] The Army does not indulge the press with information too much. This is the reason why a news conference by a high- ranking commander always promises something interesting. The meeting with journalists by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Army, which is scheduled for today, is doubly interesting: it will be held on no specific occasion, but against the background of shock experienced by the top brass following the allocation of what the Defense Ministry sees as a negligible sum for the military. General Semenov himself is known for his views that have been fairly frequently at odds with Pavel Grachev's, in particular, on ways of military organization in Russia.

The officially stated subject of the news conference—"The State and Development Prospects of the Army in the Conditions of Military Reform"—scarcely holds any interest for a wider range of readers. Obviously, following cuts in the military budget "the state and development prospects" of the Army are far from bright. All the more so because these troops will receive a lesser percentage of the defense appropriations than others. Ironically, General Semenov, who formerly fiercely opposed the current contract system of manpower acquisition, will evidently have to be the first to halt this practice because of a lack of funds.

What is of much greater interest, however, is how General Semenov will comment on the overall military budget, not just the army budget. Observers do not rule out that he, being a well-known opponent of Pavel Grachev in military affairs, may express the opinion held by a part of the top brass displeased with the defense minister's inability to squeeze out sufficient money for the Armed Forces. If

General Semenov dares criticize the minister's policy, this may mean that a serious opposition to Grachev has emerged in the Armed Forces. To criticize without the appropriate support would be rather dangerous even for so high-ranking a commander: recently even multi-star generals live in constant wait for drastic reshuffles.

If General Semenov does no overstep the limits of the news conference agenda, however, this will also be full of meaning. The refusal to exploit as advantageous a subject as the budget to criticize an opponent will prove that to all appearances the battle for the Armed Forces' money is not over yet and the generals still pin their hopes on Grachev. If this is so, any criticism of Grachev can be put off until better times, for the infighting could only harm "the common cause:" A high-ranking ministry official told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that "the main thing is to get the money, and what will happen afterward is our own business." KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report the results of the news conference tomorrow.

Destruction of Chemical Weapon Equipment Begins

LD1805180094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Russia is starting the destruction of chemical weapon manufacturing equipment. A decision to this effect was made by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets following his visit of the Khimprom company in Chuvashia which used to manufacture chemical shells.

The production of chemical weapons was discontinued in the factory in 1987 but the equipment capable of doing so has remained intact. Soskovets and Chuvashia's President Nikolai Fyodorov ordered the compiling of a schedule for the stage-by-stage destruction of the equipment.

Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the State Defense Industry Committee, told Interfax that this decision marked the beginning of a large scale process in the country. The reluctance on the part of the U.S. to sign the appropriate convention might, however, hinder the process, he said.

New Multipurpose Aircraft Makes Maiden Flight

PM1905105594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Ilyushin On Order"]

[Text] A new-type Il-103 developed by the S. Ilyushin Experimental Design Bureau has made its maiden flight at an airfield in Zhukovskoye, near Moscow.

This small, multirole aircraft fitted with an engine manufactured by the U.S. firm Teledyne Continental Motors is destined to carry passengers or freight, for pilot instruction and training, environmental monitoring, or the delivery of emergency medical aid. Series production will be carried out at the Lukhovitsy Aircraft Plant. There are already plenty of orders for the aircraft, including some from foreign companies.

Accidents Show Need To Accelerate Arms Cuts

PM1905085194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 p 2

[Otto Latsis article: "Russia's Weapons—The Threat to Their Security. People Involved in Accidents With Weapons and Ammunition Talk on This Topic"]

[Text] The usual process will doubtless follow in the wake of the blast at the ammunition dump near Vladivostok: A commission will be set up to investigate the causes, criminal proceedings will be instigated "in the light of the facts," promises will be made to get the bottom of the matter and report all the details to the public, and then there will probably be a desire to forget about what has happened as quickly as possible. But even if some day we do find out something reliable and noteworthy regarding the circumstances which led to this incident, it is already too late to be satisfied with such information.

Let us recall the accidents of statewide and even international significance which Russia's Armed Forces have "bequeathed" to us over a short period in the Vladivostok area alone: Two terrible explosions at ammunition dumps; the tragedy on Russkiy Island (regarding which, it was recently announced, no proper conclusions have yet been reached); and the international furor occasioned by the dumping of radioactive waste. The problem of processing and storing this waste has not yet been resolved. And across the country as a whole? Merely listening to an account of the attack carried out by a single mentally unbalanced soldier, without any special preparations, on the guard of a nuclear missile complex in the Altay is enough to make your hair stand on end. What would happen if a gang of blackmailers were to repeat this "experiment" with special preparations? After all, bandits—whether in the capital or the distant backwoods—and participants in armed conflicts in CIS countries open fire daily using firearms that have been seized, stolen, or bought from our Army.

We need to look the truth in the eye: Russia's weapons have become one of the principal threats to its security. We can and must pinpoint and eliminate omissions in the organization of weapons and ammunition storage, strengthen discipline, and so forth. But in addition we must acknowledge that the military shield forged during the 50 years since World War II is so heavy that it threatens to crush us.

I am not talking about buttressing those serving in the Russian Armed Forces today. The problem was created by the generation of political and military leaders who have just retired. It became evident when Stalin, through his support for North Korean aggression, frightened the Western world with the threat of communist expansion, and it deepened when Khrushchev, by frightening the world with enormous superbomb tests, refused to heed the warnings of the bomb's creator A.D. Sakharov; finally, the problem took on a disastrous turn when the Brezhnev team switched from a policy of military sufficiency to one of

military parity. Defense parity not backed up by industrial parity proved too much for our economy and exhausted it even more than the inefficient antimarket system, thus making spasmodic and ill-prepared reforms an inevitability. Parity isolated the Soviet Union politically. Finally, having turned the heads of the political and military leaders of the time, defense parity dragged our military into Afghanistan, Africa, and Latin America, even across the equator.

Hopefully, bitter experience has convinced our current leaders that such a policy is ruinous. But it is not enough merely to realize this, it seems. Events such as the explosion near Vladivostok demonstrate that there is another purely technical or technical-economic problem: We clearly lack the funds to properly ensure the upkeep of our hypertrophied defense industry. The problem is compounded by the fact that all this coincides with the extremely complex task of withdrawing troops from both inside and outside the CIS and the worsening of servicemen's social hardships. The need for expenditure to improve the upkeep of hardware is directly at variance with the need to spend money on the upkeep of personnel. There is just one way out: Cut the Armed Forces' weapons and manpower more quickly and decisively than has been done up to now.

It is apparently more expensive to cut back the Armed Forces than it is to continue funding them. The following example is cited: When an officer is discharged early into the reserve, he must be paid 20 times his monthly salary. This is an unconvincing example, as any economist will immediately recognize. One-shot items of expenditure should never be directly compared with ongoing expenditure. If severance pay is viewed as an investment made in order to reduce current expenditure in the future, then reimbursement in 20 months' time is an excellent time frame by any economic standard.

According to data from INTERFAX, this year Russia will need 600 billion rubles [R] to recycle its military hardware. Overall, the recycling program will cost R3.5 trillion in 1994 prices. This was announced by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets at a joint session of the collegium of the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry and the Udmurtia Council of Ministers held in Izhevsk Monday [16 May]. O. Soskovets also announced that by the year 2000 we will have to recycle 150 submarines, 7,500 tanks, and 20,000 artillery pieces and other types of hardware.

It makes sense to find the money to accelerate this process even at the cost of cutting expenditure on state investment in the national economy. Because the payoff could in fact come even earlier if we bear in mind that an able-bodied officer could leave the Army and get involved in productive activity, and that the material resources that are currently spent on the upkeep of superfluous weapons could be channeled into social and economic objectives. But, most important of all, here we have a case where not everything can be measured in terms of an economic transaction alone. It is worth any amount of money to reduce the risk of accidents like the one at Vladivostok, let alone the incident in the Altay.

Tanker With Nuclear Waste To Be Moved To Safer Place

LD1905131794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] It is now known that the Pacific Fleet Command is planning to move an old TNT-5 tanker carrying a load of liquid nuclear waste from Bolshoy Kamen harbor (Maritime Territory) to a safer place, possibly Pavolsk Bay. A final decision is to be taken this week. The other tanker, TNT-27, also laden with nuclear waste, is to stay put at Bolshoy Kamen because experts do not put its seaworthiness in question.

Last month, the regional committee for nuclear safety decided to dump a new load of nuclear waste from the TNT-5 tanker in prescribed parts of the Sea of Japan, its head Yevgeniy Stomatyuik told INTERFAX. The decision follows a deterioration of the vessel's state after last winter leading to a number of faults in its drainage, pipelines and valves and cracks in its engine department, he said.

Last October, TNT-27 dumped a load of about 1,000 cubic meters of liquid nuclear waste of low radiation levels in to the Sea of Japan.

At the same time, the regional administration had pledged not to dump any more waste from the TNT-5 tanker until after the question of when and who will finance the construction of a reprocessing facility in the region has been resolved.

The problem was also high on the agenda of last month's meeting by a Russian-Japanese commission of experts. Two options were suggested: The facility is to be either sea or land-based.

Federal Assembly

Parliamentarians Demand Increased Defense Spending

LD1905215094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Sergey Yushenkov (Russia's Choice faction), chairman of the Duma Defense Committee, said at a press conference that participants of closed parliamentary hearings on defense expenditure for 1994 have decided to insist on increasing spending from the planned 37 to 55 trillion rubles when discussing the second reading of the federal budget.

According to Yushenkov, cutbacks in defense spending at the moment were passing the point after which a breakdown would begin.

Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Piskunov said that President Yeltsin supported increasing defense spending.

First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin said that over 60 percent of the defense budget went on social expenditure linked to the unprecedented withdrawal of

troops from foreign countries, including from former Soviet republics and the construction of housing for officers.

Answering an Interfax question on where additional expenditure would come from, Yushenkov said that the income part of the budget could be reconsidered.

He said that merely by cancelling privileges in foreign economic activity, income could be increased by five trillion rubles. Certain individual parts of budget could also be reconsidered, he said, such as expenditure on maintaining the state apparatus.

Duma Defense Committee Head on Budget Increase

LD1905191394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] [Correspondent Aleksandr Gerasimov] An increase in military expenditure, according to Sergey Yushenkov, the chairman of the Duma's Defense Committee, has practically been agreed with the president and the government and the Security Council. The additional 18 trillion [currency not specified], if they are approved by parliament, will be used for social provisions for servicemen and purchasing weaponry. At the same time, it is thought that the deficit in the state budget will not change by a ruble. The first 5 trillion rubles, the Defense Committee believes, can be obtained, for example, by removing privileges for foreign economic activities. The Defense Ministry has painstakingly substantiated its demands. Sergey Yushenkov described them with an artistic figure of speech.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] The situation is forming in such a way that the cuts in defense expenditure are going beyond a certain physiological frontier beyond which begins collapse. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] At the same time, it can be claimed that the original demands from the military for 87 trillion rubles were deliberately high. According to one version, the Defense Ministry was acting in accordance with the old Russian tradition—the more you ask for, the more you will be given. A second—put forward by Andrey Kokoshin, the first deputy defense minister—says that their experts were counting on higher inflation.

[Begin Kokoshin recording] Of course we would have preferred there to have been higher estimates of military expenditure, but taking into account the changes that are rapidly taking place in our economy, of course this level is closer to what is genuinely needed today to ensure the country's security. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] One way or the other, the military it seems are close to repeating the achievements of the agro-industrial complex—they are receiving what they have demanded. What effect this will have on the economy or on the military itself will become clear after the budget is finally adopted by the State Duma. But now it is already obvious how badly thought through was a budget inside of which 18 trillions can be moved from one area to another. [video shows defense committee presser in progress; shots of various military sites and troops]

Duma To Consider Financial Concessions for Media

PM1905104794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Press Will Not Survive Without Concessions"]

[Text] "The only way of preventing an information vacuum is to provide the Russian mass media with tax, financial, and customs concessions."

Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko voiced that opinion at a meeting with journalists yesterday. As you know, he has sent the State Duma a draft law "On State Protectionism Toward the Russian Mass Media" by way of a legislative initiative.

Vladimir Shumeyko believes that all the mass media, apart from promotional and erotic publications, should be exempt from profits tax. The draft law that he is proposing contains the following stance: "The editorial offices of mass media, publishing houses, printing enterpries, television and radio companies, news agenices, and a number of other organizations 'are not liable to value added tax, tax on enterprises' land and property, or profit tax in respect of the proportion payable into the federal budget.'"

The government has sent a similar law to the State Duma.

Duma Speaker Leaves Session To Meet With Yeltsin

LD2005085394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who was chairing a session of the lower house since morning, left for a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin at noon.

The announcement was made by Deputy Speaker Alevtina Fedulova who did not say what problems are to be discussed at the meeting.

Regional Affairs

Interior Minister Yerin Ends Visit to Sakhalin

LD2005093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0410 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 20 May—Viktor Yerin, Russian Federation minister of interior, ended his visit to Sakhalin. At a news conference today on the results of the trip, the minister stressed he came to Sakhalin to acquaint himself with the work of the Interior Ministry bodies in the island oblast and to resolve the question of giving aid to the leadership of the oblast's directorate of internal affairs. The minister announced that in accordance with the results of a check that was carried out prior to his visit by an Interior Ministry commission, a number of responsible officials of the oblast directorate had been punished and measures were worked out to strengthen law and order on Sakhalin and in the Kurils.

In connection with the Putina-94 operation that is being carried out in the Russian Far East, Viktor Yerin described it as very expedient in the struggle against organized international crime. The minister believes concrete contacts between the island's Interior Ministry bodies and the police of Japan's most northerly island, Hokkaido, could be very beneficial.

Petersburg Firm To Build German Turbines

PM2005085994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "'Siemens' Technology Introduced in St. Petersburg"]

[Text] The Russian-German "Interturbo" enterprise has set up serial production of 150-megawatt gas turbines, assembled using Siemens technology. In electric power stations using, for example, the steam and gas energy production cycle, such turbines generate almost double the output produced by the industrial energy systems of thermal electric power stations. Interturbo, which was set up by Siemens and the St. Petersburg firm LMZ, was initially geared toward production of "high technology" goods enjoying a stable demand in power engineering worldwide.

In the first phase of the enterprise's work the St. Petersburgers are to assemble units from components delivered from Germany. At the same time the infrastructure for the production of components and machine parts in Russian plants is to be set up. Within a few years deliveries of these items will dominate the list of turbine components, so the production-sharing program envisages. The high quality of Interturbo's ouput is confirmed by the international certificate issued by experts of the German Technical Oversight Association.

'Urgent Measures' Needed for Radioactive Waste Storage

MK2005074094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations Press Service report under the "News" rubric: "Radioactive Waste Could End Up In Ocean"]

[Text] This could happen, specialists think, unless urgent measures are taken at the "Zvezda" plant in Maritime Kray to set up facilities for the dumping, storing, and recycling of liquid radioactive waste.

Looking for a way out from the current situation, the Russian government sent a number of instructions to interested ministries and departments. But as is always the case, the whole thing is held up for want of funds. Anatoliy Shumilov, deputy chief of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations' man-made and natural emergency situations administration, a regular meeting will be held in June of representatives of interested ministries and departments which will perhaps make the optimal decision.

Pacific Fleet Explosion Result of Failed Theft

LD1905194794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] The procuracy of the Pacific Fleet has established the reasons for the vast explosion at the fleet's aviation (bomb) store. According to the procuracy, one of the servicemen learnt that some of the things stored at the dump contained precious metals and decided, with his friends, to remove them. They found the munition they were seeking and began to dig into it with a bayonet. When the munition unexpectedly burst into flames the soldiers could think of nothing better to do than to run away.

As a result of the subsequent fire and explosion about 200 wagon-loads of munitions went up into the air and great material damage was caused to the neighboring villages.

Maritime Kray To Review Arms Depot Location After Fire

LD1905133594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The administration of the Maritime Territory (the Far East) is to review the location of arms depots, Vice Governor Valentin Dubinin told Interfax on Thursday.

This decision was taken after an explosion on the arms depot in Novonezhino, not far from Vladivostok, on May 14, which inflicted serious damage on the neighboring villages.

Dubinin also stated that the Novonezhino depot would be eliminated and that he opposed he idea of turning the Maritime Territory into an "arms graveyard" (a large part of the ammunition stored in Novonezhino was produced in the 1940s).

Commenting on the dismissal of Pacific Fleet Commander Georgiy Gurinov following the explosion, Dubinin said that this move would hardly influence discipline on the Pacific Fleet. "The government must pay servicemen on time and as much as they need. How can one talk about discipline when servicemen do not receive their salaries for months?" he said.

INTERFAX Interviews Tatarstan Parliament Chairman

LD1905142594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] In a recent issue of Interfax-Exclusive you met the Vice-Premier of Tatarstan Ravil Muratov who thinks that his republic has not fully used the possibilities offered to it by the treaty with Moscow on the separation of powers. This time FARID MUKHAMETSHIN, the chairman of the Tatar parliament, expresses his opinion.

IF: Do you think the leadership of Tatarstan has properly used the situation of the past two years for conducting economic reforms?

MUKHAMETSHIN: The cabinet managed to offer social security to the population which is important. However, not burdened by big payments to the federal budget last year and having advantageous conditions for oil experts the government should have used the situation more actively and launched economic reforms creating favorable conditions for small and medium-sized business. Unfortunately, the government was more concerned about the optimal distribution of the shrinking means it had than about finding new sources of increasing the budget.

During the latest session of parliament the Tatar budget came under justified criticism. An analysis of the revenue and spending indicates that the government approach to the economy is conservative.

IF: In the absence of its own economic program can Tatarstan collect the planned revenue by increasing the tax burden of unprofitable companies and impoverished population?

MUKHAMETSHIN: The parliament approved the budget on condition that the government works out an anti-crisis program within a month's time. If the government has collected merely 400 million rubles in the first four months, one can hardly expect it to collect three trillion by the end of the year. Therefore the main task of the cabinet now is to define priority industries and companies that will be given tax benefits, to work out an effective policy of credits and agree with the federal government on a program of reducing mutual debts that now total two trillion.

IF: If this was not done in two years, why do you think the cabinet is going to find a way out of the crisis in one month?

MUKHAMETSHIN: I think a month is enough. The anti-crisis program will rely on the resources of Tatarstan as well as outside resources. Today many companies have their own programs and some have even partly carried them out. They should only be helped and by the end of the year they can stabilize their finances.

The bankruptcy law should be used and the anti-monopoly committee should be forced to work. Being a part of the economic space of the Russian Federation Tatarstan naturally attaches great significance to coordinating its economic policy with the federal government. This implies the opening of centralized credit lines for agriculture and related industries, investments in federal programs etc.

The agreement signed with the Russian government allows the Tatar National Bank to vary lending rates and this should also be used. But it must not be forgotten that Russia has the same problems as we do. We intend to take most active part in working out federal programs. The Tatar government might invite outside economists to work on our economic strategy. Talks are under way, but it is too early to name anyone personally.

IF: The parliament did not raise the question of a separate economic policy. Moreover, the prime-minister has declared that Tatarstan will follow the political line of Russia.

MUKHAMETSHIN: An absolutely independent economic policy is hardly possible today. However, one should not say that Tatarstan intends to drift along with Russian reforms. Local conditions will be taken into account and appropriate amendments made.

IF: Do you think there is a cabinet crisis in Tatarstan? Some political forces believe that the prime-minister must resign giving his place to a reformer.

MUKHAMETSHIN: I think it is too early to speak of the resignation of the cabinet. Everything is going to depend on the implementation of the anti-crisis program.

IF: Was the budget debate during the latest session natural or was it a manifestation of the conflict between the parliament and government?

MUKHAMETSHIN: The budget is always lobbied by certain groups: industrialists, farmers, bankers, that is why its adoption is always a compromise. During the debate I did not notice any wish of MPs to call of the replacement of some cabinet members or the cabinet as a whole even though its capacity to carry out radical reforms was questioned by some speakers.

IF: Some observers believe that during the past two years the Tatar leadership has been more concerned about political, domestic and foreign problems than an economic strategy. Do you agree with that? After all social security, support for agriculture are largely a survival program. Do they have a future or will they have to be curtailed?

MUKHAMETSHIN: It is true that much money was spent to keep up stability. The leadership felt that this is necessary otherwise the public would have turned its back on reforms. Now a new stage has begun and we must protect the rights we received from the federal government to prove the vitality of sovereign Tatarstan. After signing the treaty with Moscow on the separation of powers the entire responsibility for reforms lies on local leaders.

Opposes Regional Confederation Plan

MK1905115594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 May 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Lukashov report in the "Regions" column: "Mintimer Shaymiyev Is Against the Idea of Creating a Volga Peoples Confederation"]

[Text] A a press conference in Kazan, Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev first commented on the idea of establishing a Confederation of Volga Peoples which has been repeatedly proposed by national movements in the Volga republics. According to the Tatarstan President, "this idea is unfeasible and nonviable because the majority of the republics and oblasts in the Volga area (excluding Tatarstan) have signed the Federation Treaty." "It is primarily up to the Russian leadership to think about such problems and also to make sure in particular that the treaties and agreements already signed should work. If these documents only remain on paper, such ideas are bound to persist," Mintimer Shaymiyev said.

True, such a position, according to Mr. Shaymiyev, does not refer to the sphere of "small-time diplomacy"—the conclusion of horizontal accords with neighboring republics and oblasts. Here, on the other hand, in his opinion, "a very interesting development occurs." After the privatization of local enterprises, a substantial portion of shares is retained by the republics' governments.

According to Mintimer Shaymiyev, in the very near future "we should think what to do with these shares" and whether it is not a good idea to trade part of them, for instance, for shares of related enterprises in neighboring regions. This form of cooperation and integration, in the Tatarstan President's opinion, will be most effective.

Official Sums Up Results of Illegal Fishing Operation

OW2005054194 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 14 May 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] The first stage of Operation Putina has been completed. The aim of the operation was to protect Russian economic interests in its territorial waters. In other words, to combat illegal fishing. Border troops; officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Customs, the Taxation Police, Primorrybvod [Maritime Kray Fishery Department], Sakhalinrybvod [Sakhalin Fishery Department]; and naval personnel took part in the operation. Captain First Rank Aleksey Velikanov, deputy chief of the Pacific Border District Maritime Department, tells us about the results of the first stage of Operation Putina.

[Begin Velikanov recording] The first stage of Operation Putina '94 ended on 10 May. The results are as follows: During the operation, more than 800 vessels, of which nearly 300 were foreign, were found in Russian territorial waters and exclusive economic zone. One hundred and fifteen [Russian] and 24 foreign vessels were inspected. Twenty [Russian] and four foreign vessels were cited for breach of fishing regulations. The offending [Russian] vessels were fined more than 200 million rubles. The Japanese fishing vessel was fined $15,385 and fishing permits of the three remaining foreign vessels were revoked. Losses estimated at approximately 20 billion rubles were averted through the resources of those who took part in the operation. Various resources, namely the Pacific Border District, the Pacific Fleet, Primorrybvod, Sakhalinrybvod, the Environment Protection Committee, Spetsmorinspektsiya [Special Maritime Inspection], as well as the Pacific Fleet and Border District aviation took part in the operation.

The next stage of the operation is planned for the latter part of June. However, this does not mean that in the interim the security of the exclusive economic zone and the state border will be relaxed. Already, the customs and border troops in Korsakov, Sakhalin Oblast, early this morning detained two vessels engaged in the illegal transfer of crabs. They are both currently under investigation. [end recording]

International Affairs

Kravchuk Seeks Early Solution of Black Sea Fleet Issue

LD1905124394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has sent a message to Russian President Yeltsin where he expresses hope for the earliest solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem. As it has become known to INTERFAX, in his message the Kravchuk expresses regret over what he describes as the unconstructive stand taken by the Russian delegation at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet which took place in Sebastopol [Sevastopol] in April.

Kravchuk said about the need to divide the fleet in line with the Moscow understandings of 15 April (according to the understandings Russia possesses 80 pct of the Fleet and Ukraine—20 percent).

The Ukrainian President voiced the need to attach a special status to the Marines.

Black Sea Fleet Only To Take Orders From Kravchuk, Yeltsin

LD1905174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Eduard Baltin met with Deputy-Chairman of the Ukrainian National Security Service Oleg Pugach in Sevastopol on Thursday [19 May] to discuss the situation in Crimea, sources in the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters told INTERFAX.

Baltin confirmed that the Black Sea Fleet Commanders would not fulfill any orders except the ones coming from the Russian and Ukrainian presidents.

Kravchuk Views 'Very Large Scale' U.S. Nuclear Disarmament

AU1905144594 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 14 May 94 p 1

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demydenko and Mykhaylo Melnyk: "Ukraine Is Fulfilling Its Obligations on Withdrawing Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] The process of dismantling and transferring [nuclear] warheads from Ukraine to Russia is under full control and is in conformity with the schedule. As of today [14 May], 180 warheads have already been transferred to the Russian Federation. This was stated today [14 May] by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk during the opening of the Kiev Spring Fair.

"It is no secret for anyone that the nuclear missiles deployed on the territory of Ukraine are not controlled by it, since the nuclear 'button' is in Moscow. Besides, Ukraine has never even tried to possess such formidable weapons," continued the president. He confirmed Ukraine's intention to fulfill in full the "tripartite agreement" signed, at the beginning of this year, by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States.

"When we signed the agreement, we hoped that other nuclear countries would follow suit and would start disarming," continued Leonid Kravchuk. "Today, I have information that, in fulfillment of the accords reached during the Moscow meeting, the United States, too, intends to destroy, on a very large scale, its nuclear arsenals," stated the head of the Ukrainian state.

According to him, by the end of May, all U.S. missiles aimed at Ukraine will be recoded. "Therefore, the time is coming when our states actually proceed from words about friendship and cooperation to concrete deeds," emphasized Leonid Kravchuk.

Officers Said To Have Participated in Congress in Russia

WS1905124194 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 18 May 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Klyuchikov: "Number of Officers Decreases, Whereas That of Officers' Unions—Increases"]

[Text] Information has flashed through Russian media about a congress of the Officers' Union [SO], held under heightened secrecy somewhere in a Moscow suburban area. The main issue on the congress agenda was the creation of a network of military political structures in the system of power ministries both in Russia and other former USSR republics. It addition, it was envisioned that this structure would be under the rigid control of Moscow.

Congress participants, who represented analogous organizations in their countries, including Ukraine and the Crimea, expressed their wish to transform themselves into republican branches of the SO and actively work for the restoration of Soviet power in all the Republics of the "disintegrated, but not annihilated, USSR."

It is known that the SO has a fairly strong position in the central apparatus of the Defense Ministries of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. SO leaders did not hide that they have pertinent information from these ministries on what is going on in the higher echelons of power, including top-secret documents.

The leadership of the Ukraine Officers' Union firmly denies any participation by its delegates in this congress. Does this mean that another, virtually unknown, officers' union is operating in Ukraine's Armed Forces?

Our Defense Ministry has seemingly not heard of either the SO congress or of the participation of Ukrainian Army representatives in it. Defense Ministry leadership will have to find out who consented to the Ukrainian

servicemen's participation in the Moscow congress. However, some conclusions can be drawn right now. The main conclusion is quite clear: The Army is not a place for any unions, since it always tends to be politicized and struggling for power, inevitably splitting servicemen into "good guys" and "bad guys."

Report Examines 'Significant' Cooperation Accord With EU

AU1905191094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 May 94 p 6

[Report by Taras Petriv: "The European Union Adheres to Accords, but Sometimes 'Slightly Hampers' Their Implementation"]

[Text] The Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union will be signed on the island of Corfu during the European Council summit conference on 24-25 June. Western analysts regard this as a significant step of assistance on the part of the European Union to the present Ukrainian leadership in implementing economic reforms and as an achievement by Ukrainian diplomacy. The visit to our state by the deputy chairman of the EC Commission, Commissioner for External Economic Issues Sir Leon Britten, has undoubtedly contributed to the successful completion of the debates on the possibilities and the date for signing the document. Aware of his positive attitude toward Ukraine, Ukrainian officials eagerly looked forward to his arrival, as they hoped that concrete problems would be resolved. However, the road toward the signing was not easy, and Britten's negotiations in Kiev were far from simple.

The "lightening struck" during his talks with L. Kravchuk, when they started discussing the possibilities of signing, at the highest level, the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. President Kravchuk expressed a desire to have this procedure over as soon as possible, whereas the EC commissioner hinted that some people in Brussels were linking it with Ukraine immediately joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. After talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlenko, Britten stated that the European Community never linked the two issues and promised to make every effort to reassure those who were putting forward such demands. At the same time, he appealed to the Ukrainian leadership with a request to speed up the process of discussion of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in parliament. The head of the Ukrainian foreign policy department responded to that very sharply and stated that such a turn of events had not been expected and could be taken advantage of by certain political forces. It became clear from what he said that there exists a "third" party, which again wants to put Ukraine in a difficult situation and again create difficulties for it in the international arena. In Zlenko's opinion, it is now important, first of all, to fulfill the Ukrainian-U.S.-Russian tripartite statement on nuclear weapons. It is worth adding that some people in Brussels may have reasoned that the chairman of the EC commission had to sign such a historic document with whoever would be in power in Ukraine in the future.

Britten's meeting with Vice Premier Landyk, Minister of the Economy Shpek, and other members of government left more optimistic impressions. They said that President Kravchuk would appeal to the European Community with a letter on granting Ukraine free assistance in food worth 200 million ECU, so that our state could sell some of its own agricultural products for hard currency and use the resulting money for purchasing the means for plant protection. However, one can only hope for any assistance if all the obligations are fulfilled. As is known, Ukraine was to have paid 4.5 million ECU to the European Community by 20 April. This sum is the interest on credit. Unfortunately, not only did our state fail to pay the debt, but did not even notify Brussels when it would pay it. The Ukrainian side accounted for the delay by the difficult situation in the agrarian sector: The sowing campaign has ended and we are ready to repay the debts.

In addition to that, Britten stated that, for political reasons, anti-dumping measures against Ukraine cannot be used by any means. The European Community can also offer considerable assistance in building two power units at the Rivne nuclear power station [AES]. For that, Kiev must agree to closing down the Chernobyl AES. The Ukrainian ministers outlined a wide range of issues where our country may need technological and expert assistance and stressed that it is much easier to work with the European Community than, for example, with the IMF.

The fourth round of talks on the Accord on Partnership and Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Community was completed very quickly, and then the document was initialed by Zlenko and Britten. It is now essential that, once it is signed at the highest level, the European Union would agree to conclude a so-called provisional accord, which would make it possible, even now, to implement the clauses of the principal document, without waiting for its time-consuming ratification by all 12 members of the body.

National Affairs

Crimean President Says Situation Calm

LD1905192394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Thirty minutes ago we telephoned Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and asked him to comment on the situation.

[Begin Meshkov recording] The situation in Crimea is calm. The attempts to influence our peace from outside are continuing with increasing intensity. The aim of

these operations sanctioned by the present Kiev administration is to wreck the elections for Ukrainian president by provoking a conflict between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, and [word indistinct] the elimination of statehood and the executive authority structures in the hope that we will lose our nerve as a result of these provocations. We will respond, as Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] himself said, in a fitting way to your stupidity. [end recording]

Internal Affairs Ministry Statement on Crimea

LD1905200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1840 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 19 May (UKRINFORM-TASS)—The statement released for publication today by the Main Center for Public Relations, attached to the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry, reads the following:

"Certain mass media, 'Ostankino' Television and Radio Company in particular, have been whipping up the situation around the Republic of Crimea. Exaggerated importance is consistently given to the subject of the latest personnel reshuffle in the leadership of the internal affairs bodies of the autonomous republic.

The Chief Public Relations Center of Ukraine's Interior Ministry has been instructed to inform the media and the public of the Interior Ministry's position on this matter.

The current situation was analyzed at the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Crimea on 19 May. A team from the Ukrainian Interior Ministry recently worked in the Republic of Crimea and documents relating to the practical aid provided to official bodies and departments of the interior were discussed at the meeting.

Among the questions discussed was the issue of incorrect actions that occurred when Aleksandr Plyuta, the interior minister of the Republic of Crimea, was dismissed from his post and a former army general, Valeriy Kuznetsov, took his place. We emphasize once again, as we have done many times before, that all such issues are to be decided solely by the interior minister of Ukraine, in accordance with Ukraine's law on militia.

Valentyn Nedryhaylo, Ukrainian first deputy interior minister, who attended the meeting, read out Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's decree turning the Crimean Republic's Interior Ministry into the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in the Crimea and making it directly accountable to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry. In accordance with the decree, administrative and service premises, weapons, vehicles, and other property are being handed over to the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in the Crimea.

Also read out was a Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers decision on changes in the complement and structure of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, providing for the introduction of an additional post—Ukrainian deputy interior minister, who is also head of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in the Crimea. By order of the Ukrainian interior minister, the post has been filled by Militia Colonel Valeriy Chernyshov, a Russian, born in 1952, and a graduate of what is now the Ukrainian Academy of Internal Affairs, who has over 20 years' experience of working in internal affairs bodies. V. Chernyshov was born in the Crimea's Bakhchisarayskiy Rayon and worked for over 12 years in operational commanding positions in Crimea's internal affairs bodies. Over the past few years he has served on the staff of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry as deputy head of the Main Directorate for Criminal Investigations.

Disregarding the decree of L. Kravchuk, the president of our state, on 19 May, the Supreme Soviet session of the Crimean Republic appointed Valeriy Kuznetsov to the nonexistent post of interior minister of the Crimean Republic.

A dangerous precedent has thus been created that may have a negative effect on the activities of the internal affairs bodies as a whole and help to destabilize the peninsula's crime situation, which is already extremely tense."

Kravchuk Addresses Crimean Issue at News Conference

LD1905224894 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 19 May 94

[Statement by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on the Crimean situation from a news conference given for editors of regional newspapers in Kiev on 19 May—recorded]

[Text] Ukraine has done everything possible, and I am not exaggerating anything at this point, to satisfy both the political and legal problems that have arisen in Crimea, namely: Crimea, the population of Crimea, the authorities of Crimea, at that time the oblast council of Crimea, brought up the issue of granting autonomy to Crimea and held a referendum, as they say, and the Supreme Council decided to grant autonomy to the Crimean Republic.

When the issue of delimitation of powers arose, a law, although with a delay, was adopted. When the Crimean authorities raised the question of broader economic independence, this was granted to Crimea. That is to say, Ukraine was responding, and, what is more, it was responding sincerely and, let us say, with all good intentions to all those political, legal, and, partially, economic issues, because not everything is easily resolved.

When they elected the president in Crimea, I congratulated him, invited him to visit Kiev, and here in this building, an agreement was reached during talks, not in the documents that we wanted to work with Crimea

constructively, that we would do everything possible so that its economic independence could be expanded. However, the condition of the state's territorial integrity, its, let us say, status, stipulated by the Constitutions of both Ukraine and Crimea, was a determining factor. It seemed to me then that we had come to this understanding. But right after this, they began to take steps of an absolutely opposite nature. Each decree, at least those that were issued on political issues, unitlaterally contradicted not only the Ukrainian Constitution but the Constitution of Crimea itself, not only Ukrainian laws, but Crimean laws as well. That is to say, virtually all, as they say, enforceable enactments were ignored.

And now, the situation has reached the point where it has been officially announced that Crimea wants to secede, strictly speaking, from Ukraine, and its leaders are declaring that this is the drift, so to speak, at first toward their own state and then toward Russia. Both the chairman of the newly elected Supreme Council and other Crimean figures were saying this.

This is why time has come for us to declare: ignoring the legislation of Ukraine, ignoring the realities, ignoring the anxiety over Crimea existing in the world, and ignoring international legal norms, stipulated both in the documents of the United Nations Organization and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Crimea wants to unilaterally adopt documents that go beyond the Ukrainian Constitution, its laws, and the law on the delimitation of plenary powers.

This is why we have made a decision that if they do not abide by these fundamental provisions of principle, we shall act resolutely and consistently to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and its state. I have issued decrees on subordinating the Crimean bodies of internal affairs directly to the minister of internal affairs of Ukraine, all the security services of Crimea to the chief of the Ukrainian Security Service, and all the judicial bodies to the Ukrainian minister of justice.

I will further act within the framework of the Constitution, in the constitutional regime. If the Supreme Council adopts the documents you have mentioned, I will immediately submit to the Ukrainian Supreme Council a draft resolution on stopping the resolutions of the Crimean Supreme Council. That is to say, we shall act, I emphasize this, within the framework of the Constitution, our plenary powers, strictly proceeding from the fact that Crimea is a constituent part of Ukraine, as is written in the Constitutions of both Ukraine and Crimea. Any revision of this fundamental provision of principle, entails inevitable grave consequences for those who carry this out.

Everybody must understand that there is a limit for any society and for any state that no one is allowed to exceed. This limit is the territorial integrity of the state. And he who wishes to ignore this, to be guided by his ambitions and, let us say, other principles, he must know that he acts contrary to laws, he must know that grave consequences are possible, he must know that these grave consequences will occur, first and foremost, in Crimea itself, and will be experienced by the population of Crimea. And those who provoke these consequences will be responsible for this, no matter how high his regalia and plenary powers, as they say.

Reiterates Supremacy of Kiev

LD1905192194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1651 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 19 May—"We shall act decisively and consistently in the defense of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. We shall act within the bounds of the Constitution, of our powers, precisely proceeding from the fact that the Crimea is a component part of Ukraine, as registered in the constitutions of our state and the Republic of Crimea." This was stated by President Leonid Kravchuk at a press conference today.

He dwelt on the latest events in the Crimea when the Supreme Soviet of this autonomous republic intends to examine the issue of restoring a number of clauses of the Crimea's Constitution in the edition of 6 May 1992. In particular, this relates to the inclusion of the Crimea in the composition of Ukraine, to dual citizenship, the setting up of military formations and others. "If the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea adopts these documents, I shall immediately submit to the parliament of the Ukraine a draft decision on suspending their effect," the President said.

"Solving these issues is exclusively within the competence of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine," Leonid Kravchuk stressed. Ignoring this fundamental situation registered in the law "On Demarcation of Powers Between the Bodies of State Power of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea," is fraught with serious consequences for those who set foot on that path.

"For each society, for each state, there is a pale beyond which no one is allowed to step," the president pointed out. Those who ignore this, those who are guided by ambitions and by other principles, should remember that their actions are unlawful. They should know that such actions, will primarily have an effect on the entire population of the Crimea. Those who, ignoring the existing legislation and international legal norms, cause the situation to heat up, will have to answer for this. No one will evade the responsibility, regardless of what high regalia and powers he might be in cooperation with, the head of the Ukrainian state stressed.

'Exclusive' Interview With Crimean President

LD1905194594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1830 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 May—"The Ukrainian leadership is making attempts to destabilize the situation in the Crimea, provoke a conflict, and use it as an excuse for disrupting the presidential elections in Ukraine. By doing this, the present leadership in Kiev is trying to stay in power," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS this evening.

According to him, the Ukrainian leadership had made an attempt to eliminate presidential power in the Crimea in the past, and on 19 May, Leonid Kravchuk by his decrees reorganized the Crimean power ministries. These moves by Kiev, Yuriy Meshkov thinks, might seriously aggravate the situation in the republic.

In his opinion, the redeployment and increased activity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces units have been noted on the peninsula's territory. Thus, on the night of 18 May, an aircraft carrying Valentyn Nedryhaylo, the first deputy interior minister, and a special purpose group, secretly arrived in Simferopol where they attempted to seize the republic's Interior Ministry.

Yuriy Meshkov said that on 19 May the Crimean Supreme Council approved the ministers of internal affairs, security service, and justice and, in his opinion, this will make it possible to guarantee peace and order in the republic. "If need be," he said, "we have enough forces and equipment to prevent the situation from getting out of control."

The Crimean president also said that, in order to guarantee stability, he was prepared to accept compromise decisions but not at the expense of Crimean statehood. In particular, Yuriy Meshkov said, at his request the Supreme Council suspended the discussion of restoring the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992.

Yuriy Meshkov also told ITAR-TASS that he had accepted the proposal by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to send a delegation of Crimean deputies to Kiev to discuss issues of mutual interest.

In the opinion of Yuriy Meshkov, in the evolved situation Russia should not allow Ukraine to resort to taking inadequate measures against the Republic of Crimea.

Ministry Denies Attempt To Seize Crimea Militia HQ

LD1905151994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 19 May 94

["What is Happening in Crimea?"—UNIAR headline]

[Excerpts] Simferopol, 19 May—[passage omitted: Kuznetsov's allegations of attempt to storm Crimean Interior Ministry] The press service of the main center for public links of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry considers that this is "another attempt to deceive the public of Crimea and Ukraine." In reality, all that happened was that a commission from Ukraine's Interior Ministry headed by Valentyn Nedryhaylo, Ukraine's first deputy minister of internal affairs, arrived in Crimea. [passage omitted]

Because the Crimean side was not informed ahead of time of the arrival at 0300 [on 19 May] of the Ukrainian internal affairs commission headed by Valentyn Nedryhaylo, who was accompanied by 15 "special force [spetsnaz] troops," the commission considers that this was a blatant violation. Valentyn Nedryhaylo also admitted that representatives of the power department acted "rather improperly." But in the words of the "spetsnaz" themselves, there was no attempt at an assault.

By way of confirmation, Oleksiy Tkach, a representative of Ukraine's Interior Ministry press center, demonstrated video scenes of all the night's events to representatives of the television and radio company "Crimea."

It is interesting that after General Kuznetsov's speech at the session of the Crimean Supreme Council, deputies appointed him minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Crimea.

Ukraine Envoy Denies Coup Allegations

LD1905171894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Speaking at the session of the Crimean parliament today, Valeriy Kuznetsov, the new interior minister, described Kiev's actions as an attempted coup d'etat.

In his turn, Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy [Volodymyr Kryzhanovskyy], Ukrainian ambassador to Russia, commented on the developments in Crimea of last night and today as follows:

[Begin Kryzhanovskiy recording] What coup can they be talking about in the Crimea? A parliamentary session is being held there today, it is working calmly and taking decisions which may be right, or not quite right, or wrong. You know, special purpose troops can be sent to any part of Ukraine at any time—but do I, as an ambassador, need to know about these things? Crimea is Ukrainian territory in the same sense as Ivano-Frankovsk, or Donetsk, or Zhitomir, or Odessa. All right, supposing special troops did go there—so what? Do you think I am very much concerned about the movement of a mere 10 or 15 servicemen from the special troops around Ukraine? All is quiet in Ukraine, a session is in progress in Crimea—so what coup d'etat are we talking about? [end recording]

Ukraine Defense Ministry Denies Troop Build-Up

LD1905182794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 19 May 94

[Announcer-read statement by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry; passages within quotation marks spoken in Russian]

[Text] We will begin with a statement by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service.

The world public has again been misled, reads the statement. Again referring to a "source close to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters," I read the original, ITAR-TASS circulated misinformation on 19 May as if 1,000 special purpose troops from the Ukrainian armed forces have arrived on the territory of Crimea over the last 24 hours. The same "source" reported the concentration of 300 Ukrainian servicemen in the vicinity of Sevastopol.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service declares that this statement is a provocative lie, evidently aimed at aggravating the political situation on the peninsula, which is tense even without this, to the limit and provoking yet another splash of anti-Ukrainian hysteria.

As earlier, the familiar special propaganda methods of the Black Sea Fleet Press Center, which is carrying out open subversive activities on the territory of the sovereign state—Ukraine, can be seen through these malicious falsehoods. Obviously, there are forces standing behind these vain attempts, who are used to cheap populist tricks of the totalitarianism times, and who use them to slander our state in the eyes of the world public and sow mistrust among the peoples of Ukraine.

I would like to remind you that this was a statement by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service.

Minister Blames Crimean Conflict on 'External Forces'

LD1905175394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Oleksandr Yemets, Ukraine's minister for nationalities and migration, believes that Ukraine and Crimea could find a "common language" were it not for the interference of external forces. Speaking in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine Thursday the minister, who is in Simferopol, also said that it was impossible to predict the influence of external forces on the Crimean leadership.

Yemets linked the activities of Russian politicians in Crimea with the fact that "certain Moscow groupings want to control the privatization process in Crimea."

Yemets said that threats to the constitution and the territorial integrity of Ukraine "will also cause us to react firmly."

"No-one will solve Crimea's problem by political adventurism," he said.

Yemets stressed that if Ukrainian property or Ukrainian citizens in Crimea were threatened by any kind of force, then "force will be answered by force."

Kravchuk Plans Direct Presidential Rule in Crimea

LD1905181294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The FRANCE PRESSE AGENCY has reported, quoting sources in the Ukrainian president's entourage, that Leonid Kravchuk is planning to introduce direct presidential rule in the Crimea. However, the final decision will depend on the consultations currently held between Russia, Ukraine, the United States, and Crimean authorities. The consultations began after more than 1,000 Ukrainian servicemen were sent to the peninsula last night.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry today denied the report that the troops had been brought in but confirmed the fact that the Crimean Interior Ministry had been transformed into the Crimean Directorate for Internal Affairs of Ukraine, and that Colonel Vladimir Chernyshov had been appointed its head.

Decision on State of Emergency Said Kiev's

LD1905151594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The state of emergency may be introduced in Crimea only by the Ukrainian parliament, head of the Ukrainian president's internal-policy service Nikolay Mikhalchenko told INTERFAX-UKRAINE.

He also said that "as the guarantor of the Ukrainian Constitution, the president will act within the limits of his powers."

He stated that the Crimean authorities had interpreted the attempts to find a compromise and work constructively as a sign of Ukraine's weakness.

"Today, we are responding, perhaps with a delay, to the extremist moves by certain Crimean political quarters," he said.

He laid the responsibility for a possible conflict on the central Crimean authorities who, he said, are pushing Crimea to the conflict.

He also denied the reports about the landing of additional Ukrainian forces in Crimea and about an attempted seizure of the Crimean Interior Ministry.

"We did and do act in strict accordance with the Constitution, but our patience may come to an end," he said.

On 20 May, the Crimean parliament intended to adopt a resolution on restoring the Crimean Constitution adopted on 6 May 1992, which said that relations between Crimea and Ukraine shall be regulated by agreements. Presently, Crimean-Ukrainian relations are

based on the Ukrainian law on the delimitation of powers between the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities.

Rukh Favors State of Emergency in Crimea

LD1905211094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian RUKH [Ukrainian Peoples Movement for Perestroyka] supports the idea of introduction of the state of emergency in Crimea, RUKh leader Vyacheslav Chernovil told Interfax-Ukraine today. He emphasized that the RUKH definitely stood for restoration of lawfulness and preservation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. He suggested that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk must assume control over the Crimean power structures rather than be waiting.

Ukrainian Peasant Party leader Sergey Dovgan announced to Interfax-Ukraine that a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation had left for Crimea. "We hope they will manage to persuade Crimean deputies to make more weighed decisions," he said.

The Agrarian parliamentary faction speaks in favor of talks on Crimean issue, Dovgan stressed. However, he added that these issues must be resolved on the basis of the Ukrainian constitution.

A leader of the UNA-UNSO (the Ukrainian National Assembly—the Ukrainian National Self-Defense) ultranationalist organization Oleg Vitovich told Interfax he gave his complete backing to representatives of the Ukrainian organizations picketing the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and demanding to annul the autonomy of Crimea.

Vitovich suggested that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet must assess the activities of the president and the former composition of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet which had led to the present situation in the Ukrainian-Crimean relations. He believes that the Crimean problems should be solved in Crimea rather than in Kiev.

Kravchuk Reorganizes Crimean Security Ministries

LD1905165794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1537 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 19 May—By today's decrees Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has reorganized the power ministries [defense, interior, and internal affairs] of the Republic of Crimea, despite the fact that he does not have a constitutional right to do so.

Main directorates will be set up on the basis of the Ukrainian Security Service and the Interior Ministry. They will be subordinated directly to the Ukrainian Security Service chairman and the Ukrainian Interior Minister. Administrative and service premises, armaments, means of transport, and property which in the past were used by the Security Service and the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Crimea are being handed over to them.

Major General Ivan Kolomitsev has been appointed by Leonid Kravchuk as chief of the main directorate of the Ukrainian security service in Crimea.

ITAR-TASS has learned that by decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, an additional post of deputy minister and chief of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in the Crimea has been introduced onto the staff of the central apparatus of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry. Militia Colonel Valeriy Chernyshov has been appointed to this post.

By decree of the Ukrainian president, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Crimea has also been reorganized into the main directorate of justice in the Crimea. From now on it will be subordinate to the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice.

Directive Subordinates Security Service

LD2005091894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] With the aim of increasing effectiveness in performing the missions that are entrusted to the Security Service of Ukraine, improving coordination in carrying out the operative and investigative operations to ensure security, and in accordance with Paragraphs 3 (?and) 7.1 of Article 114.5 in our state's constitution, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by his directive has reorganized the Security Service of the Republic of Crimea into the Security Service of Ukraine Main Directorate in Crimea, subordinate directly to the Security Service of Ukraine chairman, with the administrative and logistical facilities, weapons, transportation means and property, that are currently being used by the Security Service of the Republic of Crimea, transferred to his use.

The directive introduces the post of chief of the Security Service of Ukraine Main Directorate in Crimea and appoints Maj-Gen Ivan Kolomyytsev to that post.

The chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine is to approve within the term of 10 days the complement of the Security Service of Ukraine Main Directorate in Crimea.

The directive is effective as of the day of issue.

Meshkov Ignores Kravchuk's Decree

WS2005083694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The new Crimean Supreme Council has taken yet another step toward deterioration of relations with official Kiev. At its session yesterday, the Crimean legislature approved, with a majority of votes, the nomination of General Lepikhov, who was nominated by [Crimean]

President Yuriy Meshkov, as chief of the Crimean Security Service. In this way, it ignored the decree issued by Ukrainian President Kravchuk reorganizing the Crimean Republic Security Service and the Ukrainian Security Service [SBU] General Department in the Crimea. The SBU press service in Kiev emphasizes that the main goal of the reorganization is to increase centralization of the service leadership and the effectiveness of its fight against organized crime in the Crimea, where it is assuming more and more dangerous forms.

Through the NOVYNY television and radio agency, the press service also reports that Crimean President Meshkov has practically ignored a wire sent to him by SBU Chief Yevhen Marchuk. The wire informs him that the SBU General Department in the Crimea, established in accordance with Leonid Kravchuk's decree, shall remain unchanged, in terms of its function, staff, and number.

The press service also reports that SBU First Deputy Chief Valeriy Malikov is currently in Simferopol with a group of SBU workers. They are preparing materials concerning the fight against organized crime in the Crimea, which will be examined at the next meeting of the SBU Collegium.

Crimea 'Exacerbating Relations'

LD2005090194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Crimean Republic Supreme Council has taken another step towards exacerbating relations with official Kiev. By a majority vote at its session on 19 May, it approved the appointment of General [Volodymyr] Lepikhov to the post of chairman of the autonomy's security service. He was nominated by President Yuriy Meshkov. The directive on reorganizing the Security Service of the Republic of Crimea into the Security Service of Ukraine Main Directorate in Crimea, signed by Ukrainian Head of State Leonid Kravchuk, has thus been ignored.

The [Security Service of Ukraine] press service in Kiev emphasizes that the principal aim of the reorganization is the need to enhance the centralization of leadership and the effectiveness of this service in fighting organized crime in Crimea where the scale of it is ever more threatening.

The press service at the same time reports via the TV and radio agency Novyny [News] that Crimean President Meshkov has effectively ignored (?a coded telegram addressed to him) from Yevhen Marchuk, head of the Security Service of Ukraine, where he is informed that the Security Service of Ukraine Main Directorate in Crimea, set up in accordance with Leonid Kravchuk's directive, is to remain unchanged in performing its functions (?in order to retain effectiveness).

The press service also reports that (Valeriy Malikov), Security Service of Ukraine first deputy chairman, and a number of his staff are now in Simferopol. They are preparing materials on the situation with fighting organized crime in Crimea, which will be under consideration at the (?next) sitting of the Security Service of Ukraine Collegium.

Crimean Parliament Postpones Independence Vote

LD1905191994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS and UKRINFORM correspondents]

[Text] Simferopol/Kiev/Moscow May 19 TASS—The Crimean parliament postponed on Thursday the scheduled vote on reintroducing items of a 1992 draft constitution of the Crimean Republic which envisaged greater autonomy of the republic from Kiev.

The decision was taken upon the demand of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Later, the president presented his explanations for the postponement of the vote to a parliament closed-doors meeting. Earlier Meshkov had been repeatedly calling on the lawmakers "not to heighten temperature" on the peninsula.

Amid mounting tension in the Crimea, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk disbanded on Thursday law enforcement ministries of the self-style peninsula republic.

According to a presidential decree which was signed on Thursday, Crimea's Interior Ministry was reorganised into a department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine directly subordinated to Kiev.

Thus all local police forces with their premises, weapons, transport means and other property were made responsible only to Kiev.

Similar decrees have put under Kiev's control, Crimean Security Service and Ministry of Justice making bringing their status down to that of departments of respective Ukrainian ministries.

By these decrees Kravchuk also appointed heads of the aforesaid departments.

The regional parliament fired back and formally confirmed the appointment of Valeriy Kuznetsov full-fledged interior minister of the Crimea. Earlier he was appointed to the post by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

Earlier today the Crimea-based Black Sea Fleet reported that for the past 24 hours some 1,000 Ukrainian home guards and special forces had been dispatched to the Crimea including a group of saboteurs now deployed close to Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet.

In his angry message the Ukrainian president today warned the Crimean parliament against "the revision of basic principles of relations between Ukraine and its integral part—the Republic of Crimea". "The violation

of these principles might lead to conflict situations and other unpredictable consequences", Kravchuk stressed.

The Ukrainian president was even more resolute in his telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin that took place later in the day.

The Ukrainian president's press service quoted him as saying that "Ukraine would take appropriate measures to preserve territorial integrity of the state".

The Crimean parliament at its closed-doors meeting decided to postpone until Friday the discussion on reintroducing items of a 1992 draft constitution of the Crimean Republic which envisaged greater autonomy of the republic from Kiev.

The lawmakers voted against a proposal to send a delegation to Kiev for negotiations with Ukraine's leadership.

In retaliation to President Kravchuk's decrees bringing Crimean law enforcement bodies under direct control of Kiev, the lawmakers appointed Vladimir Lepikhov chairman of the Crimean Security Service, and Lyubov Yeliseyeva-Bora minister of justice.

Crimean Deputies Discuss Restoration of Constitution

LD2005110794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] We are continuing to follow events in Crimea with great attention. The Crimean Supreme Soviet is continuing its work in Simferopol. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov reports.

[Novikov] At the morning session the deputies were addressed by Viktor Mirak, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. He said that during the night of 19-20 May there was a telephone conversation between [Crimean President] Yuriy Meshkov and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Viktor Mirak said that no mutual understanding was reached during the conversation. Therefore, Yuriy Meshkov asked that the deputies be told that at the session it would be expedient to continue discussion of the question of restoring the 6 May 1992 Crimean Constitution. Meshkov, himself, is not present at the session. According to some reports the Crimean president is on a visit to the Kuban [Russia's Krasnodar region].

After hearing Viktor Mirak's report, the deputies began discussing the question of restoring the Crimean Constitution. The Crimean Tatars group announced that it would not take part in the voting on restoration of the Crimean Constitution, giving as their reasons that this could exacerbate relations with Ukraine. Nevertheless, the 1992 Crimean Constitution was restored by a majority vote. This Constitution declares the Republic of Crimea as an autonomous state constructing its relations with Ukraine on the basis of treaties and agreements. This decision by the deputies caused a storm of applause from a well-attended rally taking place outside the Crimean Supreme Soviet building.

After a break for dinner, the session will continue its work.

[Announcer] I would add that a message from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was read at the session. In the message the head of state demanded that the Crimean deputies should unconditionally implement the provisions of the Ukrainian law on delimitation of powers between the bodies of state power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic.

Crimean Parliament Restores 1992 Constitution

LD2005091494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Today's session of the Crimean parliament adopted a law restoring the Constitution of 6 May 1992, INTERFAX reports. This Constitution envisions that the legal basis of relations between Ukraine and Crimea will be a treaty. It also stipulates that inhabitants of the peninsula are entitled to dual citizenship.

As has already been reported, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk earlier warned that if the Crimean Supreme Soviet restores the Constitution, he will immediately ask the Ukrainian parliament to suspend the decision.

Constitution Decision 'Illegal'

LD2005144894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Intensive consultations are under way in Kiev following the Crimean parliament's decision to reinstate the republic's constitution of May 6, 1992, presidential spokesman Nikolay Mikhalchenko told Interfax-Ukraine.

"President Kravchuk and Speaker of Parliament Aleksandr Moroz are meeting to discuss the issue and I hope the president will address the deputies today," he said.

On Wednesday, Kravchuk said that if Simferopol took a decision to bring back its constitution, he would ask the Ukrainian parliament to rescind it.

Mikhalchenko said that Simferopol's decision was out of line with the Ukrainian basic law and therefore, illegal. "The decision would lead to the setting up of a confederation in Ukraine which is a unitary state," he said.

Restoration of Constitution Viewed

LD2005113394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—The parliament of the Crimea, an autonomous republic of Ukraine, voted on

Friday to restore the Crimean Constitution of May 6, 1992. Votes against it were cast only by 14 deputies from the Crimean Tatars," ITAR-TASS has learned by telephone from Petr Chernyakevich, the Crimean president's aide for military affairs. [no opening quotation marks as received]

Chernyakevich described the parliament's decision to restore the 1992 Constitution as a correct step. "If this decision had been blackballed," Chernyakevich said, "the Ukrainian president would have obtained additional means to influence the situation on the peninsula."

Speaking about the current situation in the Crimea, Chernyakevich noted that it was on the whole tranquil. In his opinion, this was largely due to the mass media, which drew public attention to Ukraine's recent steps, which could have destabilised the situation in the Crimea.

At the same time, Chernyakevich noted that movements and redeployment of Ukrainian troops were spotted on the border with the Crimean republic. It is reported that the Ukrainians are setting up field hospitals and are trying to place Crimean defence units under the control of the Ukrainian National Guard.

Chernyakevich also expressed anxiety about the Ukrainian president's decree to reorganise the Crimean ministries for internal affairs, security and justice into departments subordinated to the central Ukrainian ministries.

Black Sea Fleet Threatens To Intervene in Crimea

AU2005100694 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Sevastopol, Ukraine, May 20 (AFP)—The Black Sea Fleet, shared between the Ukraine and Russia, threatened Friday [20 May] to intervene in Crimea after the region's parliament adopted a new constitution effectively declaring independence from Kiev.

"It is clear that whatever the development of the situation, the Black Sea Fleet cannot remain outside events unfolding around it," the Fleet's Press Office said in a statement.

Special Forces Planning Assault on Crimea

MK2005080194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Yadukha from Sevastopol in "Crimea" column: "Ukraine Is Getting Ready To Make War"—two last paragraphs are report by Pavel Felgengauer]

[Text] In spite of denials by the Ukraine Defense Ministry and the Navy Press Center, on 19 May in a conversation with SEGONDYA's correspondent a high-ranking officer at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters confirmed information about the landing near Sevastopol of Ukrainian Special Force and National Guard units with a total strength of approximately 1,000 men.

The troops were landed in two groups at the Belbek and Cape Khersones airfields, whereupon they were assigned to Ukraine Navy units. The officer advised that in Kherson Oblast, in the village of Chernobayevka, a Ukraine military field hospital has been set up. whose personnel are making no secret that they are getting ready to receive casualties with bullet and fragmentation wounds.

Furthermore, Ukrainian troops are being concentrated around the city of Izmail where a Black Sea Fleet brigade of combat boats is located. According to unconfirmed reports, the storming of the unit has been set for 25 May.

From 18 to 22 May the Black Sea Fleet command is holding "scheduled"—the word the Navy Press Center makes a point of emphasizing—exercises. They involve more than 20 battleships and submarines, aircraft, helicopters, and fleet coast installations.

On Thursday a session of the Crimean parliament heard Acting Internal Affairs Minister Maj.-Gen. Valeriy Kuznetsov announce that on the morning of 19 May a detachment of the Ukraine Special Forces, under the command of Ukrainian First Deputy Interior Minister Nidrigaylo, attacked the Interior Ministry headquarters in Simpferopol. Crimean militia forces managed to repulse the attack. Prior to that President Kravchuk issued an order transforming the Crimean Interior Ministry into a regional directorate of Ukraine's Interior Ministry, including a new post: "deputy minister—chief of the Crimea Directorate."

Local parliament deputies believe that military preparations in Sevastopol, Izmail, and Simferopol are elements of an overall plan to destabilize the situation on the peninsula. Political observers suppose that an armed confrontation on the peninsula could become a pretext for postponing or cancelling presidential elections in Ukraine which bode no good to its present leadership.

According to some reports, Thursday's closed session of the Crimean parliament considered the question of introducing a state of emergency on the peninsula.

Sources in the Defense Ministry in Moscow confirmed to SEGODNYA's correspondent that the 1st Ukrainian Mobile Air Brigade, created on the basis of the 98th Paratroopers Brigade, part of which was evacuated to Russia, is, according to intelligence reports, "making preparations" for a possible seizure of a river vessel (craft) brigade in Izmail. Mobile Air Brigade servicemen earlier took part in the seizure of a ship division in Odessa.

The Ukrainian Mobile Air Brigade is located in Bolgrad and could be moved to Izmail within several hours. The

command of the river vessel brigade has been "warned about a coming provocation" and, if necessary, could obviously offer resistance.

Crimean Draftees To Serve on Crimean Territory Only

LD2005145694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] On Friday the Crimean parliament adopted a resolution under which all residents of the republic of draft age should pass military service in the army on the territory of the peninsula. Deputies also decided to suspend sending draftees out of Crimea and to draft them for serving in Crimea and in Black Sea Fleet units.

At the same time the Crimean parliament ordered the military commissar of Crimea, Volkov, to fulfill this resolution. However, Volkov said at the session that he would not be able to fulfill the resolution because he is subordinate directly to Commander-in-Chief, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Volkov also said that "it is impossible to have all draftees stay in Crimea."

In the meantime, Vice Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, deputy Aleksandr Frolov said at the session that "the commander is ready to receive all draftees from the Republic of Crimea."

On the same day the republic's parliament formed a delegation which will leave for Kiev in a few days for talks on the return to the first version of the Crimean Constitution of May 6, 1992. The delegation is led by Chairman of the Crimean parliament Sergey Tsekov. The delegation includes, Refat Chubarov, one of the leaders of the Crimean Tatars and the faction Kurultay of the Crimean Tatars in the Crimean parliament.

Zvyahilskyy Urges Economic Sanctions Against Crimea

LD2005131594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Simferopol—The session of the Crimean Supreme Council continued its work on 20 May. At the morning sitting, Leonid Hrach, Communist Party of Crimea first secretary, made a speech in which he called on deputies to "maintain common sense and not unleash a military conflict." However, deputies decided to renew the text of the 6 May 1992 version of the Republic of Crimea constitution (69 deputies voted in favor and 2 abstained). In accordance with the text of the constitution, mutual relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine should be built on the basis of agreements and treaties. The constitution also mentions dual citizenship and creating Crimean military formations.

Before the vote, the Crimean Tatar Kurultay's [congress] group announced it would not take part in the voting. People's Deputy Oleksandr Kruhlov, leader of the Sevastopol branch of the National Salvation Front of Russia, promised "in the event of a military conflict, 80,000 Kuban cossacks would defend the Crimean constitution."

As Vyacheslav Lebedyev, the Crimean president's press secretary, said Yuriy Meshkov and acting Minister of State Affairs Viktor Minin flew to Krasnodarskiy Kray at 8.30 "in connection with the recent signing in Moscow of an intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Crimea and the Russian Federation." It is expected that Yuriy Meshkov will return to take part in the parliament's work in the second half of the day.

General Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimea minister of internal affairs of the republic—appointed on 19 May by the parliament—reported to an UNIAN correspondent, "the situation on the peninsula is quiet, the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Crimea are fulfilling the duties they are charged with." According to him, Colonel Valeriy Chernyshov, chief of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in Crimea under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine—appointed by Leonid Kravchuk's decree—is now in Simferopol, "and if he wishes to visit the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Crimea, we shall let him in. However, he does not command anyone and the fulfillment of the duties he was charged with by the president of Ukraine is out of the question."

The deputies to the Crimean parliament elected a plenipotentiary commission to hold negotiations with the Supreme Council, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the president of Ukraine, consisting of Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council; Serhiy Nikulin, chairman of the commission for legislation; Refat Chubarov, chairman of the Kurultay group; Deputies Volodymyr Klychnykov, Yuriy Podkopayev, and others.

Commenting at UNIAN's request on the developments at the Supreme Council of Crimea, Leonid Hrach, chairman of the Communist Party of the Republic of Crimea, said after such steps by the Crimean parliament, Ukraine has all grounds to take any measures. "I hope the Supreme Council of Ukraine will show political wisdom and will become a balance between the emotions and the legal space which exists in Ukraine and in Crimea." he said.

Commenting on the report on the concentration of Spetsnaz [special-purpose forces] in Crimea issued by the TV company Ostankino, Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimean internal affairs minister, said there were around 60,000 Ukrainian servicemen on the peninsula and therefore Ostankino's data were correct.

Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent, Mykola Mykhalchenko, official in charge of domestic policy issues at the Ukrainian presidential service, stated: "The Ukrainian president's position is this: There is a boundary, which can be maintained by the central leadership of Ukraine, and it may not be overstepped." In Mykola Mykhalchenko's view, actions by the parliament of Crimea overstep the boundary of common sense "and

one has to take the path of compliance with the constitution across the whole of Ukraine's territory." Also, he does not rule out that in the very near future a Ukrainian presidential directive or appropriate actions by the parliament of Ukraine as a reaction to the [Crimean parliament's] anticonstitutional decision can be expected.

In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent during a break in the work of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy stated: "I think we now must turn to economic sanctions against Crimea. The republic is in debt to Ukraine, up to date owing over 1.5 trillion karbovantsi. We must turn to sanctions like those used by Russia against Ukraine. We have enough levers such as, for example, the supply of water and electricity." Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said the government was now working on appropriate steps. "I would not call it an ultimatum. This is a tougher approach to our relations", added Yukhym Zvyahilskyy.

Kravchuk Approves of Moroz as Supreme Council Head

LD1905203294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 19 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev May 19 TASS—"When electing Aleksandr Moroz chairman of the supreme soviet of Ukraine, deputies were guided, in my view, not only by political considerations but also by their own opinion of the personality of the contender", President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine said in reply to a question by ITAR-TASS about his attitude towards Wednesday elections.

During four years of work in the previous composition of the supreme soviet, Aleksandr Moroz was taking an active position in the parliament, had his own point of view on political, economic and legal problems of current life and upheld them quietly and with good reasoning, the president noted.

"I do not remember a case when he offended someone in the heat of a debate or showed haste in making decisions. By having elected Aleksandr Moroz deputies hope that he will be able to unite all of them for constructive work," Leonid Kravchuk pointed out.

"For me this is also a determining factor. We may have unlike and even quite different viewpoints on processes of social life but the main thing for us is Ukraine with its 52 million population. We will be guided by these considerations in the future," the Ukrainian president stressed.

Leonid Kravchuk expressed the hope for fruitful cooperation with the new head of the parliament. "If a man has no vanity but has self-control, his own stand and appropriate culture, it is always possible to find common ground with him," the Ukrainian president noted.

Deputies View Moroz Election

LD1905120294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 19 May 94

[Excerpts] Kiev [no date as received]—UNIAN has already reported that on 18 May Oleksandr Moroz was elected chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine by a majority vote. [passage omitted]

A UNIAN correspondent asked people's deputies to comment on the result of the ballot:

Volodymyr Lanovyy of the "Reforms" group: "This is just the first stage. Let us wait for the election of 112 people's deputies. It is also possible that parliamentary activity will be paralyzed by the formation of a government from the body of people's deputies. Apart from that, Oleksandr Moroz only won by a few votes. I hope the final stage of the parliamentary election will change the situation, because everything will be decided today by the communist majority rather than by Oleksandr Moroz."

Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy from the "Statehood" group, who once put himself forward for the post of Supreme Council chairman but withdrew his candidacy: "I am an optimist. That is why I think one should search for the way out of any situation. There is no tragedy, although the result is not what we had hoped. One should work constructively."

Vyacheslav Chornovil of the People's Movement of Ukraine group: "Had I known earlier than today about behind-the-scenes games by [President] Leonid Kravchuk, who could get rid of his competitor in the presidential election, the forecasts made could have been different. I consider the result of the election to be a national tragicomedy.

Yuriy Buzduhan, a leader of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine, who on principle did not join any of the groups: "Compared with the former Supreme Council, this is a step forward. Why? Because the majority in parliament came to power legitimately and, naturally, will take responsibility for its actions. The future will show to what extent the people of Ukraine were sensible in electing this deputy and this Supreme Council chairman. I believe Oleksandr Moroz will be a consolidating force, and this will be his most difficult task. I do not rule out the possibility of him asking Vyacheslav Chornovil to be his deputy."

Stepan Khmara, chairman of the Ukrainian Conservative [Republican] Party, who is not a member of any group: "One has once again to admit that the national democrats made a mistake, were defeated, pushed aside, lost their moral prestige, and let the old cadre stay in power."

Moroz May Consider Postponing Presidential Election

LD1905123794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] INTERFAX-Ukraine has been informed that Ukraine's new parliament speaker Aleksandr Moroz said at consultations with representatives of parliamentary fractions and deputy groups on 18 May that he may consider the proposal to postpone presidential elections in the Republic if President Kravchuk made the corresponding legislative initiative.

Moroz, the leader of the Socialist Party, was elected speaker of the new parliament Wednesday [18 May]. He was also registered as a candidate for the presidency at the elections due 26 June.

He assured journalists that his running for the presidential elections, "if they take place, will not have any bearing on his work in parliament."

Moroz has repeatedly insisted that the elections be held on 26 June and on no other date. However, he told a May Day demonstration that the Ukrainian president could be elected by the parliament.

Moroz believes that the supreme executive body in the republic ought to be the cabinet of ministers and that the president should be the head of state.

He told deputies after being elected speaker that his main position was the "independence for Ukraine and the building of a Ukrainian state." "The one thing that unites us is Ukraine itself," he stated.

In an interview with journalists, Moroz called for "order in relations governing ownership" to be imposed, complaining that those relations were currently "verging on the criminal." "I support the most radical measures in that respect," he said.

National Democrats Prevent Late Parliament Session

LD1905214694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Thursday's evening session of the Ukrainian parliament failed to take place because around 120 deputies refused to register.

The deputies, who came from the Rukh, Statehood, Unity and center fractions, were protesting the offer of the post of deputy speaker to Aleksandr Tkachenko.

The left wing Ukrainian Peasants' Party nominated Tkachenko, a former agriculture minister, for the post.

Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil appealed for deputies not to register and confer among fractions on their own candidates for deputy speaker.

The speaker himself, Aleksandr Moroz, said he would give the media a list of the names of the deputies who had refused to register for the session. Those deputies, he said, were obstructing "constructive" work in parliament.

Communist leader Petr Simonenko in an interview with Interfax Ukraine criticized the national democrats, saying that "we have come to parliament to work and they are getting in our way."

The rebel deputies meeting Thursday evening must present their candidates for the post of deputy speaker by Friday's morning session of the Supreme Soviet.

Government Approves Regulations on State Border

LD2005093994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2155 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 19 May—The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved a resolution on the creation of a border strip. It is being established along Ukraine's state border in areas of land, along the shores of frontier rivers, and within settlements and rural councils of people's deputies adjacent to the border.

The border regime regulations were also confirmed.

Cabinet Establishes Border Zone, Sets Restrictions

WS2005093494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution regarding the border zone. The zone is established along Ukraine's state land border, as well as along banks of border rivers and water reservoirs, within territories of settlements and village councils of people's deputies, which are adjacent to the border.

The resolution also approved general border regulations. In particular, they stipulate that citizens entering or staying within the border zone should have documents confirming their identity and need to enter the zone or remain there. Within the border zone, auto travel is limited, and a veterinary-sanitary zone is established, in which the breeding and grazing of livestock is prohibited. [passage indistinct]

Economy Ministry Says Price Fluctuations Possible

LD1905153794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The press service of Ukraine's Economy Ministry stated yesterday that reports of considerable consumer goods and services retail price and tariff rises, to be expected in May or June of this year, have appeared recently in some of the mass media. Interviews and statements on this are making purposeful references to a draft resolution that allegedly has already been drawn up by the ministry, the adoption

of which would lead to a new round of inflation and a fall in the population's living standards.

The press service of Ukraine's Economy Ministry states in connection with this that no plan of general retail price and tariff rises has been developed. On the contrary, the government's moves to stabilize the economy have resulted in reducing inflation from 90 percent in December of last year to six percent in April of this year. Approximately the same level of inflation has been forecast for May. Of course, insignificant fluctuations in retail prices as a result of this or that factor are not ruled out. Ministry of Economy specialists expect, for example, that tariffs on city transportation services may rise, which will have to be approved by local authorities.

Economics Ministry Rejects Price Hike Rumors

WS1905100694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Certain media have recently been disseminating reports that a significant increase in retail prices and tariffs for consumer goods and services is planned for May and June of this year. Additionally, it has been insinuated that the Economy Ministry has already drafted a resolution, the adoption of which will lead to a new wave of inflation and further deterioration of the people's living standards. The press service of the Economy Ministry states that the ministry is not working on any plans to increase retail prices or tariffs.

Ukraine Seeks Access to World Arms Market

LD1905122494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] "We must gain access to the world arms market," Chief of the [Ukrainian] Armaments Staff Lieutenant General Lev Gnatenko [Ihnatenko] stated ruing a briefing in Kiev on Wednesday [18 May]. He said that Ukraine might sell air to air missiles, radars, guidance and automatic fire control systems and armored equipment.

Gnatenko also said that six months ago, the Ukrainian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations established an agency (Ukroboronservis) dealing with the arms issues. It has established contacts with a similar agency in Russia (Rosvooruzheniye) and is currently coordinating prices on military equipment manufactured in both countries.

To quote Gnatenko, there is a state arms development program to last until the year 2010 providing for the creation of a network of research centers. He said that whereas the former Soviet Union had about 40 research institutes working on arms projects, Russia has 37 now and Ukraine none, although research centers are attached to many of the former defense enterprises.

He told journalists that in 1995-96, Ukraine would put on orbit a satellite of its own.

Speaking about arms production Gnatenko said that Ukraine has built or nearly built 10 warships.

He also announced that a program was being developed for the production of firearms at five Ukrainian factories, including the Kiev Machine-Building Plant and the Dnepropetrovsk Yuzhnyy Machine- Building Plant, the latter will manufacture firearms on the basis of the Kalashnikov sub-machine-gun and the former firearms of its own design.

He complained that the budget spending on armaments and components was insufficient. In 1994, only 8 percent of the required money was allocated for this purpose.

He said in this connection that Ukraine had had talks with Russia on selling about 40 strategic bombers in exchange for space parts for individual types of armaments and maintenance services.

Ukraine Seeks Russian Services in Exchange for Bombers

LD1905121494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Lieutenant General Lev Ihnatenko, chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' armaments staff, told a briefing for journalists on 18 May that, in compliance with accords on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Ukraine, it is planned to send 200 nuclear warheads to Russia this year. Thus far, he said, 180 nuclear warheads have already been removed. As for the future destiny of strategic bombers, with 42 heavy bomber aircraft remaining on the territory of Ukraine—19 Tu-160's and 23 Tu-95M's—the lieutenant general stressed that in exchange for the transfer of these aircraft to Russia, Ukraine would like to be able to have other aircraft of the Ukrainian Armed Forces technically maintained and spare parts supplied for various weapons systems. A settlement of this issue by the Russian side is forthcoming.

Lev Ihnatenko also noted that although only 25 percent of the research and development institutions's requirements have been met, work on the creation of up-to-date armaments systems, including precision weapons, is continuing.

Rukh Calls for Halt To Removal of Nuclear Weapons

LD2005022794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2155 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Crimea, Kiev, 19 May—"In conditions when the informational and organizational-parliamentary aggression by Russia in Crimea is being continued, we deem it necessary to stop the transfer of nuclear weapons from the territory of Ukraine," says the appeal of the People's Movement of Ukraine (Rukh). Further on the document states that the desire to drag through the Supreme Council of

Crimea the Constitution of 6 May 1992, separate citizenship of Crimea and the dual citizenship as well as the decision on liquidating the Ukrainian republican status of Sevastopol; the setting up of its own ministry of internal affairs and security service; the demands that the Sevastopol naval base should be transferred to the Russian Black Sea Fleet; the demands that the Ukrainian armed formations should be withdrawn from Crimea—this is far from being the full list of the violations of the Constitution of Ukraine and Helsinki accords, and the illegitimate actions by the president and the Supreme Council of Crimea aimed at splitting Ukraine, igniting civil war and escalating conflict between Ukraine and Russia to the limit when its solution becomes possible only by means of armed struggle.

"All these actions by irresponsible helmsmen of Crimea are encouraged by the deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation with the president of Russia being aware of this.

"We demand that the world community should take resolute measures aimed at stopping the interference in the affairs of the sovereign Ukrainian state on the part of the government officials and the State Duma of Russia and guaranteeing security and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

"We demand that the Supreme Council and the president of Ukraine should take effective measures so that the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine be abided by in Crimea and that Ukraine's territorial integrity be ensured," says the appeal by Rukh.

Army Official on Nuclear, Conventional Disarmament

WS2005091594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Issues concerning supplies of modern weapons to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and use of the country's unique industrial and scientific-technical potential became the center of attention at a briefing held yesterday at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Lieutenant General Lev Hnatenko, first deputy chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Armaments and chief of the Armaments General Headquarters, spoke with journalists in detail about Ukraine's implementation of international agreements on nuclear disarmament and reduction of conventional weapons. He emphasized that, despite economic hardships, Ukraine is able, and should, produce military equipment which would be comparable to the world's best standards and become competitive on world markets.

Lt. Gen. Hnatenko also reported on certain problems of material provisions in the process of servicing already existing weapons. However, the main conclusion is that the Ukrainian Armed Forces is equipped with all necessary means to perform its tasks, which are aimed at protecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Gas Supplies to 2,300 Enterprises Cut Off

LD1905221994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Committee for Oil and Gas has decided to halt gas supplies to 2300 enterprises in the republic which have failed to settle accounts for supplies received, the committee's chairman Mikhail Kovalko told a press conference in Kiev Thursday.

He said that the enterprises' debts for gas ran to 15 trillion karbovantsy, and that was making it difficult for Ukraine to pay for gas imported from Russia and Turkmenistan.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers told Interfax Ukraine that the republic currently owed the Russian Gazprom joint stock company around 600 million US dollars. However, Gazprom was due to pay Ukraine 100 million dlrs for the transportation of Russian gas through Ukrainian territory.

"A protocol signed by Vice-Premier Valentin Landik in Moscow in April states that our Russian partners and ourselves will make a monthly analysis of the repayment of the Ukrainian debt for gas," Kovalko said.

He also said "despite the difficulties paying, Gazprom is, for the time being, supplying gas to the agreed volumes."

Kovalko also said that "this will assist with preparations for next winter in that we can pump around 2 billion cubic meters of gas into our reservoirs."

Kravchuk Sets Up National Oil and Gas Company

LD1905083294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian president has issued a directive setting up a national oil and gas joint stockholding company, UkrNaftoHaz [Ukraine Oil and Gas], with the aim of ensuring the state's economic interests in the process of corporatizing and privatizing state oil and gas enterprises and meeting consumers' demands for fuel and energy resources. [passage indistinct]

Belarus

Restricted Zone Along Polish Border Reestablished

WS1905134794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1150 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Brest Oblast Council of people's deputies has adopted a resolution on the restoration of a border zone along the boundary with Poland. In Brest, Kamenets, and Pruzhany Rayons adjacent to the border, special rules of entry into the zone, as well as of residence and temporary visits, have been introduced. Permanent residents of these rayons should have a special notation in their passports, while newcomers—a permit to enter a specific populated area. This resolution was provoked by the need to halt smuggling and illegal border crossings.

Military Delegation Departs on Lithuania Visit

WS1905133194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1150 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A military delegation headed by Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski departed this morning for the Lithuanian Republic on a one-day official visit. The Defense Ministry press center has informed BELAPAN that the Belarusian delegation will meet with Seimas [parliament] Chairman C. Jursenas and Defense Minister L. Linkevicius. The program also envisions a visit to the Motorized Landing Brigade "Iron Wolf" and a meeting with leaders of the Volunteer National Defense Service.

Military Officers Poll Reflects Discontent With Status

WS1905101394 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Report by A. Makarov: "One More Poll Has Been Conducted"]

[Text] A poll conducted among officers of the Minsk Higher Military Engineering College showed that 52 percent of those surveyed do not see any prospects for their continued service, and 25 percent have already decided to leave the Belarusian Armed Forces. As many as 96 percent of the servicemen expressed their discontent with the legal status and material security of Belarusian officers (by the way, 67 percent of college officers do not have their own housing), and they believe that if Belarus continues to conduct such a military policy, our Army will end up without a future.

In the opinion of those surveyed, their situation may improve if they are granted privileges, which officers in the Belarusian Interior Ministry and the Russian Federation Armed Forces are currently enjoying, including free passes for city and suburban transportation, reimbursement of fares for officers' and their families' holiday travels within the CIS, free medical treatment in spas, full compensation for rent charges, possibility of receiving preferential loans, etc.

Regarding officers' attitude toward contract service, 30 percent of those surveyed disapprove of it, 34 percent refused to answer, and 36 percent support it, but only provided that the state fulfills its responsibilities.

Russian Air Force Unit Allowed To Remain Until 2000

WS2005091394 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 18 May 94 p 1

[Report by BELINFORM reporter Viktar Kotaw: "Russian Pilots Remain in Belarus"]

[Text] The fate of the Russian Air Force regiment, stationed in Zyabrawtsy near Homel, has been determined. Pilots from the neighboring state will remain in Belarus until the year 2000. At this point, the arrangement is said to satisfy both sides because following the withdrawal of some of the Russian troops from this oblast, local authorities found themselves faced with the problem of efficient use and maintenance of military settlements.

Talks With Russia To Center on Baranovichi Radar Station

MK2005073494 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev under the "News" rubric: "Talks on Future of Radar Station"]

[Text] A meeting between Russian and Belorussian [Belarusian] Defense Ministry delegations opened in Minsk on 19 May. One of the main questions being discussed is the future of the early warning radar station for detecting missile attacks near the city of Baranovichi.

The Russian side is interested in using it even after the Russian troops pull out from Belorussia.

Kebich Assures Borisov Residents of 'Change for the Better'

WS1905112294 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 17 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "Situation Will Improve in the Immediate Future"]

[Text] Unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia is a mandatory condition for pulling the Republic out of its current crisis. Belarus will be able to preserve its independence only through economic union with Russia. This staunch position was declared by Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich during a visit to Borisov, where he met with residents and the leaders of local enterprises.

Speaking to an audience at the Town Center of Culture, Vyachaslaw Kebich assured that, despite various talks on the current government faults, he has a program for pulling the state out of the crisis. In particular, the

government will considerably cut down its financial support to unprofitable enterprises. It was recommended that banks stop allotting credits to such entities. The "Law on Bankruptcy" will be applied. The government is going to launch a wide-scale campaign to set up share holding enterprises along with foreign investors. To stop the decrease in the standard of living, the Cabinet of Ministers specified an inventory of goods which will be produced in the Republic in required amounts, irrespective of all economic difficulties.

Citing the opinions of foreign experts, Vyachaslaw Kebich said: "If the government manages to realize its plans, Belarusian industry will increase its production as early as 1995."

In the opinion of the head of state, similar results could be expected in the agricultural sector. The government will support the financial situation of the agricultural sector by lifting certain taxes. The Cabinet of Ministers plans to lift taxes on real estate, water, subsidiary production, and health care, as well as certain environmental taxes. The government declared its readiness to finance the development of the agrarian social sector.

As to the question of if the Cabinet of Ministers supports a collective form of economy, Vyachaslaw Kebich answered that, in his opinion, kolkhozes have not yet used all their reserves and opportunities. "Our position is not to destroy what has not become obsolete."

In his talk with Borisov residents, Vyachaslaw Kebich made assurances that the situation in the republican economy would change for the better in the immediate future. The prime minister links this hope with the signing of the monetary merger agreement with Russia. This subject was discussed at his meeting with leaders of "Ekran" Association enterprises, which are currently undergoing conversion. They produce first-class navigational equipment for aircraft and ships.

"I strongly support a new confederative union," said Vyachaslaw Kebich.

As for economic union with Russia, the prime minister believes that Ukraine—after holding its presidential elections—will also support this idea. The Asian republics [of the former USSR] would like to become members, as well. In the opinion of the head of government, a Russian ruble can become legal tender in Belarus in as little as one or two months.

Agreement With Iran Expected To Reinforce Trade, Relations

WS2005081894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A trade agreement signed during the visit of a Belarusian delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Kostikaw, to the Islamic Republic of Iran will help activate bilateral economic relations between that country and Belarus. During a meeting with ministers and First Vice President of Iran Hasan Habibi, an agreement was reached on the development of investment activities, setting up of joint ventures, staging fairs and exhibitions, and efficient exchange of information.

Presidium Discusses Budget, Finances, Culture

WS1905111894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1700 GMT 18 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Results of the Session of the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet"]

[Excerpts] Myacheslaw Hryb chaired the 18 May session of the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. The session participants discussed the issue of the implementation of a law on languages. Nil Hilevich, chairman of the legislative commission for education, culture, and preservation of historic heritage, delivered a report. He substantiated the setting up of an office within the Cabinet of Ministers to pursue a unified language policy in the Republic, and expediting the drafting of legal acts—aimed at implementing the "Law on Languages in the Republic of Belarus"—by state bodies subordinated to the government. At the proposal of Myacheslaw Hryb, a decision to set up a working commission, headed by Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Bambiza, to work out a resolution on this issue considering remarks and proposals by members of the presidium was adopted.

According to Vyachaslaw Kuznyatsow, first deputy Supreme Soviet chairman, the following resolutions were adopted: "On Rough Plan Regarding Draft Laws and Other Issues To Be Discussed by the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Deputies in 1994 and Beyond" and "On Schedule for Designing Draft Laws for the 15th Session of the 12th Belarusian Supreme Soviet." These documents charge the Cabinet of Ministers and other initiators with drafting and forwarding legislative acts for discussion by the Consultative Council and the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet under established conditions. More than 130 legislative acts should be discussed (60 of them—at the 15th Supreme Soviet session) and some 20 international pacts and agreements should be ratified by the end of 1994.

To honor the memory of the victims of the war and fascist genocide, and in connection with the 50th anniversary of Belarus' liberation and victory in the Great Patriotic War [World War II], a resolution to set up a memorial on the territory of the former death camp "Trastsyanets" was adopted. In connection with this resolution, the government should draft corresponding legislative acts. In addition, a range of ministries and departments were charged with making documents accessible in Belarusian and foreign (based on international agreements) archives on the former death camp "Trastsyanets," which operated in 1942-44, permitting research, publishing, and film production.

Members of the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet heard a report by the Control Chamber of the

Republic of Belarus on developments in 1993. According to Control Chamber Chairman Vasil Sakovich, a resolution "On Establishing a Council—Within the Cabinet of Ministers—for Coordinating Operations of Control Bodies Conducting Financial-Economic Control of the National Economy" was adopted. V. Sakovich was nominated chairman of this council. It was agreed that this body will include, in particular, a minister for administration of state property and privatization, a director of the Department of Economic Control within the Cabinet of Ministers, a chairman of the State Chief Inspection of Taxation, and a deputy chairman of the Belarusian National Bank. The issue on measures regarding strengthening of material and technical supply, development of the social sphere of the Control Chamber of Belarus, and incentives for its employees was also discussed. The Commission for Planning, Budget, and Finances, along with the established council, was charged with drafting proposals concerning the strengthening of the social sphere of all control bodies of the Republic, and the development of incentives for its employees.

The Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution "On Issuing Credits." This resolution, in particular, charges the Belarusian National Bank with issuing a line of credit of 100 billion rubles [R]—at the expense of the National Bank profits from the first quarter of 1994—under the conditions postulated by clause No. 15 of the "Law on the 1994 State Budget of the Republic of Belarus." Commercial banks were recommended to issue a credit line of R400 billion to the government in May-June. In addition, the National Bank was charged with drafting a special procedure for using economic norms regarding commercial banks issuing the aforementioned credits. When discussing this issue, it was noted that enterprises, organizations, and institutions of the budget sector require these credits for making payments to their employees. [passage omitted]

Two posts—that of domestic policy adviser, and press secretary to the Supreme Soviet chairman—were introduced to the Supreme Soviet secretary staff.

National Bank Deems Monetary Merger 'Extremely Unfavorable'

WS2005091494 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 19 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Stanislaw Bahdankevich Criticizes Monetary Merger Pact Between Belarus and Russia"]

[Text] Belarusian National Bank chairman, Stanislaw Bahdankevich, held a news conference at which he sharply criticized the monetary merger agreement between Belarus and Russia signed on 12 April in Moscow. "The National Bank is convinced that we should integrate with Russia and set up a joint currency union, however, on equal terms," stated Stanislaw Bahdankevich. Nevertheless, he believes that the signed agreement contains specific provisions that cannot be accepted by Belarus. First, this concerns the unification of their budgets as early as 1995, reflected in clauses No. 5, 6, and 7 of the aforementioned agreement; second, the fact that Belarus will have to receive loans not through the Central Bank of Russia, but in the form of state loans through the Russian Ministry of Finances contradicts the Belarusian Constitution. In the opinion of Stanislaw Bahdankevich, clause No. 5, which stipulates the transfer of assets and liabilities from the National Bank of Belarus to the Central Bank of Russia, causes the greatest objections. It virtually means the liquidation of the National Bank of Belarus. This was the reason why Stanislaw Bahdankevich did not initial this clause when signing the 12 April agreement in Moscow. "As a result, we have virtually no monetary merger agreement because, due to the lack of consent in regard to this clause, two most important documents, which are integral parts of this agreement, have not been adopted and signed," stated the bank official. These documents are as follows: "Intergovernmental Agreement on Single Mechanism of Managing Belarusian and Russian Budgets Upon Unification of Their Monetary Systems" and "Interbank Agreement on Unification of the Belarusian and Russian Monetary Systems and Mechanism of Functioning of a Single Monetary System."

Stanislaw Bahdankevich believes that the April 1994 agreement is much more inadequate than the monetary merger agreement signed on 8 September 1993. The earlier agreement was an equal rights agreement, according to which Belarus could pursue an independent economic policy. Stanislaw Bahdankevich declared that the Belarusian side should insist on signing an agreement on exactly the same conditions—the establishment of a single customs zone, the operation of a single legal tender (Russian ruble), issued by two banks according to mutual agreements, the denotation of limits of budget deficits, which were postulated by the September agreement and were not ratified by the Russian legislature.

In the opinion of Stanislaw Bahdankevich, the expectations that the deficit of the payment balance, stabilization of inflation, and fulfillment of mutual accounts between enterprises will be resolved are illusory. The National Bank chairman also criticized that part of the signed agreement which concerns the mutual lifting of customs duties. In his mind, the gain from lifting customs duties, which will be enjoyed by Belarus, cannot be compared with its gain, had it taken money from Russia for maintaining the Russian Strategic Armed Forces—deployed on the territory of Belarus— and the transit of Russian freight, oil, and gas through Belarusian territory. Though Russia lifted customs duties for Belarus, it introduced excise taxes on Belarusian goods and additional payments for transport, thus leaving Belarusian traders virtually without profits from lifting customs duties.

In the opinion of Stanislaw Bahdankevich, the unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems within one to two months is impossible, though Belarusian

Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich talked about this recently. "I admit that I simply may not know something he knows if he says that this monetary merger could be introduced in the immediate future," he added. The National Bank chairman explained his prolonged silence after the signing of the agreement—which is extremely unfavorable for Belarus—by the fact that some clauses of the agreement, which contradict the Constitution, would be changed after a course of negotiations.

Moldova

Leaders To Cooperate With Russia, Without 14th Army

LD1905154094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] May 19 TASS—The Moldavian [Moldovan] leadership "will do everything in its power to expand friendly and cooperative relations with democratic Russia, which considers Moldovia to be an equal, proper, and responsible partner," Moldavian Foreign Minister Sergey Popov stressed in an interview broadcast over Kishinev Radio on Thursday [19 May].

However, Popov expressed his regret that the agreement on the basis of inter-governmental relations between Moldavia and Russia, which was concluded three years ago, has still not been ratified by the Russian parliament. "At the present time, the parliamentary foreign affairs commission is searching for ways out of this dead end together with colleagues in the Russian parliament."

The foreign minister confirmed that his country's official stance regarding the 14th Russian Army, stationed in Moldova, has not changed. "We are for the unconditional, complete, and immediate withdrawal of that Army from the Republic's territory."

The next round of the Moldovan-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the 14th Army is scheduled to be held at the end of May or the beginning of June, ITAR-TASS was told by the Moldovan Foreign Ministry.

The membership of the Moldovan delegation has been significantly altered. The former delegation head, Moldavian Ambassador to Russia Anatoliy Tsaran, resigned his post, and so will probably be replaced by Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Osmokescu.

ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources that government and other departmental representatives will also be replaced. This may have a significant effect on the negotiations, which have not witnessed any progress for the past several months, the sources noted.

The Russian delegation has tied the withdrawal of the 14th Army with the resolution of the Dniester armed conflict and the granting of special legal status to the Tiraspol-based rebellious region.

Reliable sources in the Russian delegation told ITAR-TASS that the previous Moldavian delegation did not have a particularly constructive attitude and was callous towards the Dniester representatives, who were present at the talks as observers.

Snegur Member of Ruling Agrarian Democratic Party

LD1905132494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Moldovan President, Mircea Snegur, has joined the Agrarian Democratic Party, INTERFAX was told by sources close to the Republic's leadership.

At the parliamentary elections on 27 February, the Agrarian Democratic Party won a substantial victory gaining 56 out of 104 seats in parliament. It put together the government and other structures of the executive power.

After the elections the president repeatedly said that the Party was capable of solving the problems facing Moldova and that it could be considered a party of renaissance with a promising future.

In an interview in the newspaper "Zemlya i Lyudi" (Land and People), Snegur made it clear that he was prepared to seek re-election relying on the support of the Party.

Political observers believe that the president entered the party to rely on its force in the current transitional period.

One of the leaders of the Agrarian Democratic Party, Vice Chairman of Parliament Nikolay Andronik told INTERFAX that the Party backs the current political course of President Snegur.

Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli and speaker of parliament Petr Luchinskiy are also connected in this way or other with the ruling party. The latter is not a Party member but stood for elections on the ticket of the Agrarian Democratic Party and repeatedly said that he shared the aims of the party.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urged To Release Russian Community Leader

MK1905113294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 May 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev, Gleb Cherkasov in the "Compatriots" column: "Dmitriy Rogozin Issues an Ultimatum to the Kazakhstan President. And Advises the CIS Countries to Agree on Single Citizenship"]

[Text] The Congress of Russian Communities [CRC] has presented President Nazarbayev with an ultimatum following an illegal arrest and detention of Boris Suprunyuk, a Russian Federation citizen who heads the Russian community of the Northern Caucasus. This was announced at a news conference yesterday by CRC Executive Committee Chairman Dmitriy Rogozin.

Reproaching the Russian authorities for inaction, Mr. Rogozin said that unless Mr. Suprunyuk is set free by 1 June and the Kazakhstan leadership provides a reasonable explanation about Mr. Suprunyuk's confinement, the CRC will reserve the right to use "its own options" to secure the release of the political prisoner. The ultimatum, by Mr. Rogozin's admission, is a forced step because the search for other acceptable answers has led him "into a deadlock" and proved futile. The CRC leader noted that the Semirechensk Cossacks have already tried rescuing Suprunyuk with their own forces and that in principle mass protest action is possible any moment.

Passing from the particular to the general, Mr. Rogozin described Crimea, Belorussia [Belarus] and Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] as former USSR regions most favorable for Russians. In all other regions, according to Mr. Rogozin, the Russian population is subjected to indirect or direct discrimination. Sharp criticism for inaction in protecting the compatriots who have found themselves abroad against their will was meted out to the Russian Government, its foreign policy department, and especially the Nationalities and Regional Policy Ministry, which, according to Dmitriy Rogozin, has done virtually no work under Sergey Shakhray.

On the positive side, Mr. Rogozin made several proposals on CRC behalf. Russian lawmakers were invited as a matter of urgency to adopt a law on repatriates and also draft and approve "10 to 15 principles," guided by which, Russia could fulfill its duty before the Russian people living in the CIS countries. At this point the Russian communities' leader asked not to confuse Russians with "Russian speakers" among whose number Messrs. Nazarbayev and Shevardnadze were included. The Russian Government was advised to expand contacts with Russian communities, in particular work toward "most favored regime" being granted to Russian businessmen in the CIS countries. The CIS heads of state were urged to adopt a joint pact on dual citizenship or single citizenship for all CIS countries.

Nazarbayev Sets Up Republic Media Organization

LD1905180794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] In order to improve the structure of the press and mass media, which were founded by the state power bodies and to work out a successfully functioning model under the period of transition to market with an aim of covering new social, political, and economic processes taking place in Kazakhstan and beyond its borders in a more systematic and complete way as well as to form a common Eurasian information space, President Nazarbayev decreed the establishment of the republican editorial and publishing corporation, "Eurasia-press," comprising the newspapers ASIA, KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA; the information agency ASIA-PRESS; and all other enterprises and organizations that are incorporated in the latter on a voluntary basis.

By instruction of the President of Kazakhstan, Grigoriy Dildyayev is appointed president of the republican editorial and publishing corporation EURASIA-PRESS. The cabinet of ministers, in its resolution, confirmed Mr. Dildyayev in the post of the editor in chief of the KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper and relieved Mr. Srybnykh in accordance with the latter's request.

Karaganda Coal Miners Continue Strike

LD1905131694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Coal miners in Karaganda (Kazakhstan) are into the second day of a strike called by the independent unions of mineworkers. As many as nine pits are affected and depending on the shift, 500 to 700 miners stay away from work. In an interview with INTERFAX on Thursday [19 May], local prosecutors qualified the action as legitimate.

Union spokeswoman Olga Krivodanova said the management of the Karagandaugol company had offered the unions to set up a conciliatory commission to try to settle differences. The union leaders are ready to enter negotiations but do not want to suspend the strike while the management is studying the miners' demands.

Krivodanova stressed that the administration had had enough time to examine the package, which it received six months ago. She said the strike would not be called off until an appropriate agreement was signed. Management officials and union leaders are scheduled to meet on Friday to discuss the dispute.

The spokeswoman also said that large sums of money were brought to the pits to clear the management's debt in back wages for April. "The administration is trying to defuse tension," Krivodanova said.

The company employs more than 100,000 workers, but only 6,000 of them belong to the independent unions.

IAEA Inspectors Visit Nuclear Facilities

LD2005095694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1535 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] A foreign delegation consisting of IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors and representatives of the donor-countries such as Sweden, Japan, the United States, and Great Britain are on a visit to Almaty. The aim of their visit is to examine issues of technical support, accounting and control, and physical protection of nuclear materials in Kazakhstan.

During their 10-day visit, foreign specialists will hold a seminar for those employed in the industry and visit relevant enterprises in Mangistau and East Kazakhstan Oblast.

Results of Anti-Crime Sweep Announced

MK1905112994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 May 94 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "One 'Noose' Is No Longer Enough"]

[Text] A law and order operation codenamed "Noose" was in effect throughout Kazakhstan for more than a week. It was carried out at the initiative of the Republic's President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

No state of emergency was imposed in Alma-Ata [Almaty] or the other cities, Kairbek Suleymanov, state councillor of the Republic of Kazakhstan, underlined in his interview for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. But the rising crime had become so "burning" an issue that the situation called for tough measures, which proved sudden to some extent. The first unusual thing was that substantial law and order forces, including internal troops, were brought in to impose order in towns and populated centers. No Army units were deployed.

The job done is not small. According to the state councillor, 50,428 people came under scrutiny of the patrols and militia bodies during the week. Naturally, those are people only detained for offenses.

During the week 333 kg of narcotics were seized. The militia's "hauls" were sometimes between 0.5 to 1.5 kg. Suleymanov does not dispute that some regular routes for drugs coming from Tajikistan were discovered, but in 11 instances the "goods" were carried by citizens of that Republic.

Some 1,500 illegally stored weapons were seized. Militia seized a submachinegun and a "Mukha" hand-held grenade launcher from Oleg Osadchiy, a military officer, who was attempting to sell them.

The operation is over. On the whole it yielded the expected results while one cannot say that crime in Kazakhstan has been finally defeated.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Receives Japanese Trade Delegation

LD1905143194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] President Akayev received a Japanese delegation led by Naito Masahisa, director general of the international trade policy department of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on 18 May at Government House. President Akayev thanked the government and people of Japan for the invaluable economic assistance rendered to Kyrgyzstan in this trying time. He said in particular that the Japanese are now looking into the complete reconstruction of Kyrgyzstan's banking system and the building of a complex of medical enterprises. He focused his attention in particular on the humanitarian aid Kyrgyzstan is now receiving. Akayev expressed his hope that Japanese business circles will actively invest in the Kyrgyz economy. The Kyrgyz side will generate all conditions to this effect.

In his turn, the head of the Japanese delegation thanked the host for a warm reception and said the specialists who are visiting the Republic will do their best to facilitate an uplift in the Kyrgyz economy.

On the same day, the Japanese delegation was received by Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov. The meeting was held in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere.

President Akayev Creates 4 New Major Generals

PM1905141594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] Has 25 Generals for 15,000 Servicemen"]

[Text] Exercises by the Armed Forces of Kirghizia held the other day were marked by a shower of stars on commanders' shoulder boards.

By an edict of President Askar Akayev, four Kirghizian Army officers were simultaneously promoted to the rank of major general. Competent sources in the Defense Ministry claim that the Republic, whose Armed Forces number barely 15,000, now has 22 serving majors general and three lieutenants general. True, the actual commander in chief, President Akayev, holds the modest rank of reserve colonel.

Akayev's Popularity Said To Drop Following Graft Reports

MK1905122794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Razgulyayev from Bishkek: "Sociology Is a Pseudo-Science in Kirgizia. This Is What Askar Akayev's Staff Has Decided"]

[Text] The results of a public opinion poll conducted in Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] by Professor K. Isayev, a well-known scientist, if published, could have caused a real sensation. But newspapers that regularly published similar materials did not find space for them this time around.

Let us disclose at once the reasons for this carefulness. According to the poll service, Askar Akayev, who has always been unrivalled in popularity ratings, ranked only... seventh! Topping the list is Apas Dzhumagulov, current prime minister, whose view on reform differs fairly significantly from that of the president.

Frankly speaking, this is a scandal. The desire of the "ruling circles" to delay the dangerous publication appears entirely natural. Instead, SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA, the government newspaper, has published an article entitled "Who Profits from Populism in Sociology?" Apparently it is not hard to guess what its thrust is.

But still, a complete "conspiracy of silence" regarding the poll has never materialized. Opposition newspapers published its results and gave their commentaries.

The article "refuting" sociology was followed by a statement from the presidential press service and vehement denunciations in televised addresses. But maybe they should have given a thought to it instead of getting so excited, shouldn't they? After all, a rating, for all its subjectivity, cannot drop by itself.

Right on the eve of the poll, the local press carried a report on removing K. Shakirov from the post of finance minister. He gave his relatives huge interest-free loans from the budget. Earlier, the parliament's controlling chamber named dozens of high-ranking officials engaged in tax evasion. Among them there was a brother of the president's chief of staff. People have noticed that blue Volvo cars presented to the president and other republican leaders by the notorious Siabeko firm have disappeared from parking lots outside White House entrances. They have been replaced with black Mercedes. Buses and trolleybuses in the city are running less and less regularly, however. I think it is these incidents, not Professor Isayev's mistakes, that have combined to play a malicious joke on President Akayev's popularity rating.

Radio Previews Visit by Bulgarian Delegation

LD1905153294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A delegation from Bulgaria led by Kadir Kadir, deputy chairman of the National Assembly, arrives on a one day working visit in Bishkek tomorrow. During the visit the Bulgarian delegation is scheduled to meet with members of the Kyrgyz Government and the Foreign Ministry and discuss the development of Kyrgyz-Bulgarian relations and the strengthening of ties between the two countries.

At the government building a ceremony to hand over a consignment of humanitarian aid brought from Bulgaria for the population of the areas which suffered from the natural calamity will take place.

Tajikistan

General on Deteriorating Afghan Border Situation

LD1905202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has been deteriorating over the past seven days, Chief of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces' Staff Colonel-General Grigoriy Bessmertniy told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview on Thursday [19 May].

He said that due to general warming the high-mountain passes have become easily accessible to the opposition militants and that Tajik opposition military formations daily shell border posts from the rear and from Afghanistan. Attempts to cross the border have also become more frequent, he said.

He announced that on Thursday morning, footprints of about 40 people who had penetrated into Tajikistan had been discovered in the section controlled by the Khorog border-guard detachment. "The trespassers have not be found yet," he said.

Bessmertniy believes that preparations for the Muslim sacrifice festival, marked on 20 May, is containing a large-scale offensive by Tajik militants.

He also noted that the situation was particularly serious in the section running along the Ishkashim, Khorog, and Kalaikhum regions of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. The peacekeeping forces are not strong enough to block the mountain passes and roads linking Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Although Kazakhstan signed the agreement on participation in the peacekeeping forces twice—on September 24, 1993 and on April 15, 1994—it has not yet sent in its contingent, said Bessmertniy.

He announced that according to border guards, the armed opposition is concentrating forces in the Ishkashim direction. These forces are extremely mobile, well-prepared for warfare in the mountains, are equipped with the most up-to-date radio-communication equipment, know the terrain very well and have guides.

He said that no attempts had been made lately to start talks with the armed opposition, as was done last winter. He also said that the peacekeeping forces were ready to participate in the inter-Tajik talks, which, he said, would only benefit the parties concerned.

He said that the armed opposition was accumulating forces and armaments. "Only Allah knows what will happen in this region in the near future. Judging by all accounts, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border will deteriorate," said Bessmertniy.

Russian Border Guards Kill 20 Opposition Gunmen

LD2005085094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Over the course of five days, Russian border guards carried out an operation to destroy gunmen in the rear sectors of the 11th and 12th posts of the Moskovskiy border guard detachment in Tajikistan. Since the beginning of May, gunmen have fired almost daily on details and military cantonments of the Russian border troops. According to preliminary information, which INTERFAX obtained from the press office of the Russian border troops, more than 20 gunmen of the Tajik opposition were killed and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was seized during the operation.

Security Forces Deny Aggravation in Border Region

LD2005085494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0807 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 20 May TASS—The leaders of Tajikistan's security agencies have categorically rejected allegations about mass unrest and political ultimatums presented to the Tajik leadership by residents of the Gissar border region. Colonel Nikolay Madzhar, the chief of the Tajik Interior Ministry's public order directorate, told ITAR-TASS that the social and politic situation in the region remained stable and under full control.

The colonel admitted that a few small scale meetings had been actually held in the district administrative centre of Gissar, at which demands were voiced to put an end to criminal outrage in the district and ensure personal security of its inhabitants.

The meetings were provoked by a tragic incident which had occurred in Gissar on 5 May, in which eight people were killed in a bloody clash between two armed and uncontrolled groups. But the incident was not political in character.

According to the colonel, Tajikistan's Interior Minister Yakub Salimov arrived on the scene on the same day and the security forces detained more than ten instigators of the clash. The investigation is controlled by the minister and the Republic's chief prosecutor in person.

Colonel Madzhar said Tajikistan's leader Emomali Rakhmonov met representatives of the relatives of the people who were killed in a clash and assured them that the guilty militants would be punished exemplarily.

The colonel said certain political forces in the Republic and the Gissar region have been trying to use the Gissar incident to reach their own selfish ends.

Tajikistan's Security Minister Major-General Saydamir Zukhurov said the situation in the Gissar district was no source of alarm, because "political confrontation in that district is a fruit of sick imagination of the forces which are against peace and stability in the Republic and are not averse to using any methods to attain their own objectives."

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Japan's Hata Discuss Aid, UN Security Council

LD1905173094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English GMT 1449 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo 19 May TASS—Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov departed the city of Osaka for home at the end of his first visit to Japan. During his stay in the land of the rising sun, the Uzbek leader held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, was receieved by the Japanese emperor, met with representatives of the country's business circles, and visited the cities of Kyoto and Osaka.

Offical Tokyo gives the results of Karimov's visit high marks, a high-ranking official in the Japanese Internal Ministry told ITAR-TASS. "We think that the president's visit laid the basis for the development of friendly relations between Uzbekistan and Japan," he said.

The main event of the four-day visit were the talks, held on Tuesday, between the Uzbekistan president and Premier Tsutomu Hata. The two sides adopted a joint declaration which laid out the fundamental principles which are to guide Tokyo and Tashkent in the development of their mutual relations. In the document, the Uzbek side expresses support for according Japan the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The two signatories declared their intention to cooperate closely within the framework of the UN and other international organisations and their desire to expand the political dialogue between the two countries.

After adopting the joint declaration, the Uzbekistan and Japanese internal ministers signed a joint document stating that both sides consider that all the treaties signed by the former-USSR and Japan, which concern Uzbekistan remain in force between Japan and the now-independent republic.

During the Japanese-Uzbek summit meeting Tsutomu Hata announced that his country would give the Central Asian Republic an additional five million dollars in medical aid. The total sum of medical aid which Tokyo has pledged to Uzbekistan is now up to 15 million dollars.

EU Program for Energy Saving, Power Engineering Outlined

LD1905170294 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 0945 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Today the presentation of the European Union's program on the development of power engineering and energy saving was held in Tashkent. This program consists of four large projects which covers all the areas in industry. The implementation of these projects will make it possible to save about 250 million kilowatt hours of energy annually. The European Union has allocated $7 million for this project. The program is already operating and in the first quarter of this year 218,000 tonnes of fuel units have been saved.

Armenia

Oppositionist Says Armenia Merged With Russia

PM1905130994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

["Own information" report: "Has Armenia Been Incorporated Into Russia?"]

[Text] The opposition newspaper AZATAMART has published a sensational statement by Edvard Oganesyan, a Dashnak Party leader, director of the Foundation for Russian-Armenian Relations, and former chief editor of Radio Liberty's Armenian programs, which claims, in particular, literally the following: "Incidentally, we have learned from Russian official circles that the Armenian Government has already signed an agreement on the Republic's incorporation into Russia. This fact is being persistently concealed from the people, although I do not think that the people will condemn their president because of this. This information is still unofficial, but if the facts about the signing of the agreement are confirmed, the government's initiative can be understood only if the agreement was signed with Russia's real masters."

How did the Armenian authorities react to this report? Levon Zurabyan the president's press secretary described this information as "gibberish and a completely groundless fabrication."

Official Sure Baku To Sign Cease-Fire Accord

MK1905081794 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Report Yuriy Golotyuk in the "Nagorno-Karabakh" column: "The Cease-Fire Agreement May Be Signed After All. Everything Depends on the Azerbaijani Side"]

[Excerpt] As Armenian presidential aide Levon Zarubyan told SEGODNYA's correspondent yesterday, so far there is still a hope that the Azerbaijani side within the next few hours or days will sign an accord for a cease-fire in Karabakh and on military and technical aspects of disengagement of the warring sides. Because Russia, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh have actually signed this document already, the accord will automatically come into effect. The presidential aide refused to say in how many days in this event Russian peacekeeping troops will appear in Karabakh, pointing out that "the document's details are confidential."

Mr. Zarubyan stated that the proposed option for a Karabakh settlement "is generally very favorable to Armenia because it essentially attests to its military victories, whereas for Azerbaijan it highlights its military failures." The Armenian presidential aide suggested this was the reason for Azerbaijan's unwillingness to sign the accord.

Other officials in Yerevan and Stepanakert yesterday refrained from comment on the results of a Moscow meeting between the defense department chiefs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh. On his return to Yerevan, Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sarkisyan only stated the following, "God knows: Whether or not the Azerbaijanis will sign this document does not depend on us." He also voiced confidence that "the agreement will still be signed in the very near future." The diplomatic department is pinning serious hopes on a visit to Baku by Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's special envoy, for talks on a settlement in Nagorno-Kazabakh. Yerevan believes that Mr. Kazimirov will possibly manage to sway the Azerbaijani side. [passage omitted]

Military Operations on Nakhichevan Border 18 May Reported

NC1905112094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0744 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR," "HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN", "YERKIR" dailies), 05/19/94—The situation at the Armenian-Azeri borders has aggravated again. "PAST" news agency reports, the Azeri army opened mortar fire in the direction of the village of Yeraskhavan in the Araratskiy district. Firing started at 2030 from the territory of Nakhichevan, and lasted till 0100. The Armenian frontier forces returned the fire. According to a "PAST" correspondent in Araratskiy district, military operations at the Nakhichevan borders have been continuing in the afternoon. "HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" reports, Nakhichevan units opened fire again at 0730 am on 18 May. Several casualties are reported in Yeraskhavan. The Armenian frontier forces refrained from returning the fire this time.

According to "YERKIR," quoting RA [Republic of Armenia] Defense Ministry press service, significant concentration of the Azeri army is reported at the Kapanskiy borders.

The Azeri units opened machine-gun fire in the direction of the village of Koti in the Noyemberyanskiy district. No casualties or significant property damage are reported.

Azerbaijani Shelling of Karabakh Positions Detailed

NC1905110694 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0744 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR", "AZG" dailies), 05/19/94—The Azeri troops continue shelling the Armenian defense positions in Mountainous Karabakh.

The enemy shelled the Armenian posts in the Mardakertskiy and Agdamskiy-Martuninskiy directions during the night and in the morning of 18 May, using artillery and tanks. One Karabakh soldier was reportedly injured. Military operations continued later during the

day. Two Karabakh fighters were wounded at the village of Gulistan in the Shaumyaninskiy district as a result of Azeri shellings during the night of 17 May. The RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] defense forces refrained from returning the fire.

The enemy shelled the Karabakh defense positions at the villages of Seisulan and Karmiravan in the Mardakertskiy district, as well as the village of Yusifdzhanli in the Agdamskiy district, using large caliber machine guns and hand held weaponry. One soldier was wounded.

The Karabakh positions at the village of Gulistan were shelled again later in the afternoon. No casualties are reported.

At the same time, the Karabakh positions at the villages of Ashagi Abdurakmanli and Kurgan in the Fizulinskiy district have been shelled. The Karabakh side refrained from returning the fire in all mentioned cases.

No Karabakh 'Counter Fire'

NC1905061294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1314 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 18 May (SNARK)—It has been three days of no military actions being observed at Karabakh fronts. However, as SNARK was informed today in the Karabakh Defence Army Headquarters, Azeris are going on with shellings of the Karabakh positions at different sectors of the front.

This morning the positions of the Karabakh Defence Army were shelled from different kinds of weapons at the Mardakertskiy and Agdamskiy-Martuninskiy directions. A Karabakh soldier was wounded.

Earlier, this night the Azeris shelled the Karabakh positions from tanks and artillery at the village of Gulistan in the Shaumyanskiy region (north of Karabakh). As a result, two Karabakh soldiers were wounded. It is reported that in both cases the Karabakh forces refrained from counter fire.

Front Lines 'Tense,' Relatively Peaceful

NC1905191894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army Headquarters has disclosed that the situation at the front line is tense. However, no military operations were carried out today. The Armenian side has refrained from retaliating against the gunfire from the Azerbaijani military units at the defense positions from time to time. The situation on NKR's front line is relatively peaceful.

The areas along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan have been fired on from Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic from time to time during the past two days. The firing has caused damage and [words indistinct].

According to the Armenian Ministry of Defense Press Service, the situation on the border was relatively peaceful today. The sides heeded the cease-fire agreement in the region.

We hope that peace and security will be gradually established on our common border.

Further on Comments by President's Representative

NC1905114494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0744 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 05/19/94—"Armenia greets and appreciates the heavy burden of a disengager, which Russian Federation took," said acting spokesman of the President Levon Zurabyan regarding the recent meeting of Defense Ministers in Moscow. The Azeri delegation didn't sign the agreement for some reasons, and left for Baku to continue discussions. Nevertheless, the atmosphere of the Moscow meeting was such that the sides were close to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. "The fact is, there is no military euphoria neither in Mountainous Karabakh nor in Azerbaijan today," Zurabyan said.

Presidential spokesman considered a success the fact that Mountainous Karabakh was recognized as an equal side for the first time, and fully participated in negotiations.

Regarding the document, developed in Moscow on 17 May, Zurabyan said that its essence was in coordination of military-technical aspects of the cease-fire. It gives details about implementation of the cease-fire, the limits, to which the Azeri and RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] troops must be withdrawn, defines the order of stationing the observers, which will include military representatives of Russia, Armenia, Mountainous Karabakh, Azerbaijan, as well as CIS and CSCE member countries. "Armenia pays great importance to the CSCE participation in the observers mission and believes, this will significantly strengthen stability of the cease-fire," said Levon Zurabyan. Moscow meeting prepared a new agreement, called "An agreement on stopping the military conflict and eliminating its consequences," which will be signed on a highest level. The agreement stipulates withdrawal of armed forces from occupied territories, lifting the blockade and return of refugees. According to Zurabyan, this agreement will open the way for discussing the RMK status within the CSCE framework.

Press Secretary Hopes Azerbaijan To Show 'Common Sense'

NC1905064294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1454 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 18 May (SNARK)—Levon Zurabyan, acting press-secretary of the Armenian president,

declared today that the sides of the Karabakh conflict have never been so close to peace as they are now.

"The road to the armistice is difficult, but the negotiations are going on and Armenia hopes that the Azerbaijani leadership will display common sense and sign the agreement," said Mr. Zurabyan at a briefing in Yerevan. He also declared that Armenia welcomes and highly estimates the readiness of Russia "to undertake the burden of peace-keeping forces' deployment in the region."

Azerbaijan

Rumors of Meeting on Russian Troops Denied

944K1246B Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

["Announcement of Press Center of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic"]

[Text] Certain press agencies, referring to the Press Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are maintaining that on 13 May 1994 at the presidency of the Azerbaijan Republic there was a secret meeting at which opinions on the commitment of Russian troops to Azerbaijan were exchanged. It is maintained also that certain leading persons who took part in this meeting spoke for and against this matter.

The Press Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic deems it important to announce the following.

A meeting was held at the presidency of the Azerbaijan Republic on 13 May 1994. The military-political situation that has taken shape in the republic and ways out of it were discussed. The question of the commitment to Azerbaijan of troops of Russia or any other state was not discussed.

Attempt To Debate Bishkek Protocol Defeated

NC1805193994 Baku AZERTAC in English 1527 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Baku, 18 May (AZERTAC)—The item of the Bishkek Protocol was not included in the agenda of the today's session of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

A group of MP's, who consider the document conflicting with the interests of the republic, proposed to discuss this item. According to them, signing the Bishkek Protocol, the Parliament's speaker Rasul Guliyev has exceeded his commission. The MP's also consider the fact that the Azerbaijani Parliament's speakers signature is affixed near the signature of the representative of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh "a de facto recognition of the so- called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic."

Concerning this item, the Parliament's speaker said that there was "too much attention" devoted to the Bishkek Protocol and that, firing the passions against the document, some forces in Azerbaijan were trying to use it "as a means of political struggle". According to Rasul Guliyev, this document is just "a protocol of intentions which is without legal effect. It has only the recommendation character" and no consent of the Parliament was required for the signing of the document which is not a subject to ratification.

[Baku AZERTAC in English at 1632 GMT on 18 May, in a Baku-datelined item, adds the following:

["Thirteen MP's attempt to place the item of the Bishkek Protocol signed by the Parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev on the agenda resulted in an unexpected break announced by the speaker today. (The Bishkek Protocol has been rejected in the Parliament earlier.) On failing to achieve their goal, they blamed Rasul Guliyev's deed in their statement and left the Parliament hall. They are convinced that the Parliament speaker exceeded his commission by signing the protocol."]

Demirel Says Armenia Must Withdraw From Azeri Territory

NC1905200194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Ibragim Nabi Ogly, our special correspondent in Ankara, has interviewed President Demirel. We now present the report he has dispatched to Baku:

[Begin recording] [Nabi Ogly] Have you studied the recent packages for the settlement of the Karabakh dispute? Can you comment on the matter?

[Demirel] We are confronted with conditions that change every day. The Armenians cannot achieve anything by fighting and occupying Azerbaijan's territory. Turkey cannot agree to the occupation of Azerbaijan's territory. The Armenians are neighbors of Turkey and Azerbaijan. They have been entrapped. In view of that, the most reasonable approach by Armenia would be to agree to abandon its attempts to occupy part of Azerbaijan's territory by force.

The Armenians have occupied a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory. No solution can be found to resolve the dispute if they do not withdraw. The Armenians may rely on whoever they wish, however, they are faced with significant problems. Fighting a war with Azerbaijan is depleting their resources.

It is a fact that 1 million people in Azerbaijan have become refugees. That is a pitiful and shameful situation. I cannot think of anything more tyrannical than forcing those people to abandon their homes and property.

Azerbaijan is the side that has suffered. An injustice has been done to that republic. Finding a peaceful solution to the dispute will, as I have already mentioned, depend on

the Armenians' withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Terterskiy, Kelbadzharskiy, Agdamskiy, Fizulinskiy, Lachinskiy, and Shushinskiy Rayons. Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is acknowledged by the entire world. Regarding the situation in Karabakh, the status there can be discussed later. [end recording]

Defense Ministry Communique Describes Cease-Fire Talks

NC1905192794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 18 May 94

["Text" of a Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Press Service communique dated 18 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The mass media have made conflicting reports over the past few days on the outcome of the talks held by the defense ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in Moscow. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Press Service deems it essential to outline the following:

An agreement on a cease-fire was reached at the talks. It was also agreed that there should be an opportunity for the negotiating parties to work on the final document in a peaceful atmosphere. The document was not signed because several of its paragraphs were not consistent with each other. An experts group is working on it. The defense ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia will hold a new round of talks when the experts conclude their work.

Meanwhile, the situation in the operations zone has been relatively peaceful during the past few days. However, our military positions in various parts of the front line have been fired upon. Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was also fired on with PDM's [not further specified] and mortars last night. Azerbaijan's military forces ignored these provocative activities and refrained from returning fire.

Karabakh Official Optimistic About Cease-Fire Prospects

NC1905193894 Yerevan SNARK in English 0856 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 19 May (SNARK)—"I am sure that the final document on realization of Moscow protocol dated 18 February 1994—which was signed last Tuesday by the heads of defense departments of Russia, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh—is capable to end bloodshed and open way to a long-term peace in Karabakh region," told in his interview to SNARK today the head of International Organizations Department in Karabakh Foreign Office, Massis Mailyan.

"Regretfully, he observed, Azerbaijan has not yet joined this agreement. However we hope that the official Baku will finally accept the realities and sign the Moscow document, which provides a mechanism of cease-fire control."

Political Parties' Joint Antigovernment Statement

NC2005064194 Yerevan SNARK in English 0954 GMT 19 May 94

[Punctuation, names as received]

[Text] Baku, 19 May (SNARK)—Condemning the actions of the Azerbaijani leadership, the Political Center of political parties and organizations of Azerbaijan, established last Sunday [15 May], made a statement.

The statement said that being unable to defend the territorial integrity of the republic, the resist the aggression, to improve the conditions the people of Azerbaijan live in existing Azerbaijani authorities intensify the struggle against the opposition to conceal the discontent caused by the fact that Azerbaijan signed the "shameful" Bishkek Protocol. The capture of the headquarters of the People's Front, military encroachment upon the office of the National Independence Party and the editorial office of the "MILLIYET" newspaper, the attempt to capture the editorial office of the "AZADLYQ" newspaper, use violence against the participants of peaceful meeting in Ordubad, the dispersal of the women's demonstration in Baku, closing of the "BMT" private TV channel, introduction of the political censorship, persecution of some of the Parliament's deputies and some other facts witness the intensification of the struggle against the opposition.

The latest appearance of Milli Majlis speaker Rasul Guliyev, who had signed the Bishkek protocol, on TV is considered an attempt to convince people, by scaring them, that it is impossible to reject that document, as well as a try to spread capitulative trends.

The statement demands to stop the persecution, otherwise the authors of the statement would take to retaliate actions. It is also stressed that all responsibility for possible consequences would rest with the present Azerbaijani leadership.

The statement was signed by the following parties: "Ana Torpag" ("Motherland"), United Azerbaijan, Revival and Progress, "Dogru Yol" ("The Right Way"), "Dunyavi" ("Secular"), "Yurdash" ("Compatriot"), National Independence, "Musavat," "Unanimity of Turkish World," People's Liberty, "Chagdash Turan" ("Contemporary Turan"), People's Front, Independent Democratic Party, Democratic Party of Businessmen, as well as Azerbaijani National Department of the World Society on Human Rights' Observance.

Karabakh Signs First Interstate Treaty With Crimea

NC2005074594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1108 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 19 May (SNARK)—Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] has signed its first interstate treaty. As SNARK newsman reported from Simferopol,

the comprehensive treaty between Nagorno-Karabakh and Crimean Republic was signed by the NKR Defense Committee Chairman Robert Kocharyan and by Crimean Republic President Yuri Meshkov. Parties observed that the signed document will serve a good basis for cooperation in political, economic, cultural, and other spheres.

The treaty has been signed during the visit of Karabakh delegation in Crimea who attended the meetings related with 50th anniversary of Crimean Tatar deportation.

As note the observers, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic—yet unrecognized in the world—has no such treaty signed with any country, not even Armenia.

Today the Karabakh delegation left Simferopol for home.

Relative Lull Continues in Karabakh

LD1905122694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A lull continues in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Interfax was told on Thursday [19 May] by a spokesman for the Defense Army staff of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The two sides are observing the cease-fire from 0000 hours of 17 May.

A source in the Azeri Defense Ministry also reported to INTERFAX on the relative calm in the zone of the conflict.

The source said the Armenians had fired on 18 May and on the morning of the 19th at the positions of the Azeri Army in the Terter and Geranboy directions. Some border villages of Azerbaijan were shelled from the territory of Armenia.

The source claimed that the Azeri Army, in compliance with the conditions of the truce, did not retaliate.

Russian-Brokered Cease-Fire on Karabakh Border Persists

LD1905130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Stepanakert-Yerevan 19 May TASS—The situation on the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh remains quiet on Thursday [19 May]. Masis Mailyan, adviser to the Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday that the observance by the conflicting parties of a ceasefire understanding is a result of the Moscow meeting of the defence ministers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, which was reached with the mediation of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Mailyan added that the cease-fire is a good prerequisite for Azerbaijan to join an understanding on the order of realising the Moscow protocol of last 18 February.

The adviser noted that the Karabakh military leadership returned to Stepanakert on Wednesday evening and expects Azerbaijan to join a protocol on ceasefire and disengagement of sides in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, which was signed by Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia in Moscow on 17 May.

According to information from the Armenian Defence Ministry press service, last night and this morning were quiet on Armenian borders. The sides refrain from firing engagements and active combat operations.

Cease-Fire Negotiations Process Described

NC1905212194 Baku TURAN in English 1623 GMT 19 May 94

["Judging by All, Azerbaijan Is To Sign Truce Agreement With Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, 19 May (TURAN)—Today early in the morning Azerbaijan's Defense Minister, Mamed-Rafi Mamedov, left for Moscow, the source from Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told TURAN.

As was reported, earlier Baku refused to sign the document concerning truce due to the fact that Armenia insisted on the settlement of two questions at a time: the introduction of Russian troops into the conflict zone and discussion of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Defense Minister Mamedov said that this proposal contradicts preliminary agreements and then left the talks.

Yesterday special envoy of Russian president, Vladimir Kazimirov, arrived in Baku to incline Azerbaijan to sign the truce agreement.

On the same day President Aliyev conducted phone talks with Pavel Grachev. During the phone talks, President Aliyev said that Baku considers the terms of the truce as "humiliating ones" and asked to take this point into account. However, Grachev mentioned that "he cannot interfere into internal affairs of Azerbaijan and he is waiting for an answer to Russia's proposals."

All these facts prove unofficial data that Moscow intensified its pressure on Baku after it refused to sign the document. Every time Moscow puts forward more and more difficult conditions.

Alternative Peace Plan Unveiled

MK1905123194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Azerbaijan"]

[Text] The council of Democratic Congress chairmen held a regular meeting at the head office of the Azerbaijani Democratic Party. Participants in the meeting discussed the sociopolitical situation in the Republic. The meeting adopted a plan for the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict drawn up by Democratic Congress members, which is seen as an alternative to the Russian peace plan. In the near future the plan will be passed to the Azerbaijani National Assembly for consideration. In addition, the member parties of the Democratic Congress issued a joint statement on the signing of the Bishkek protocol by Azerbaijani parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev on 8 May.

U.S. Ambassador Cited on Mediation Efforts

NC1905204594 Baku TURAN in English 1623 GMT 19 May 94

["U.S.A. Accepts Russia's Mediatory Attempts as the Part of Activity of International Organisations"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, 19 May (TURAN)—"The U.S. back the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the states," said the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Richard Kauzlarich, at today's press conference in Baku. "The U.S. do not intend to stay aside from the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. The warring parties have to realize that the conflict must be settled as soon as possible. One will not be able to achieve any other purposes without that," said Kauzlarich.

The U.S. Ambassador said that "they say that we must point to the culprit of the conflict. We think that it will not help to settle the conflict."

Answering to the question concerning the international mediation in settlement the Karabakh conflict, Richard Kauzlarich noted that the U.S. accept the mediatory attempts of Russia only within the international organisation's framework, in particular CSCE. He said that all the members of CSCE should be involved to the process of observers' sending to the conflict area.

American ambassador noted that mediatory success can be provided only in case of the actions not only of some countries, but of international organisations.

In respect with the CSCE activity, Kauzlarich said that this organisation, during last two years practically had not chances to realise its peacemaking potential. "During this period both parties turned away from the attempts of CSCE," said the ambassador.

He also noted that in case of signing the oil contracts with American companies, Azerbaijan can hope on obtaining the status of most favour in trade with U.S.A.

MP's Issue Appeal to Nation in Support of Bishkek Protocol

NC1905205894 Baku TURAN in English 1623 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Baku, 19 May (TURAN)—Twenty-seven members of the Milli Mejlis support Bishkek Protocol and they addressed an appeal to the Azeri nation.

The appeal reads that "a six-year-old war of Armenia against Azeri nation worsened socio-economic and military-political situation and presently it also threatens to the state system."

"We have to seek for peaceful ways to put an end to this devastating war."

The deputies stood against "a wide campaign several political parties and media waged today."

"We condemn the activities of those parties, which are aimed against the achievement of national unity and civil consent and which are not in the interests of Azerbaijan."

The deputies consider Bishkek Protocol as a move aimed at end of the war and the achievement of peace in Azerbaijan.

The document mentions that the signing of Bishkek Protocol does not mean that the UNO [United Nations Organization] and the CSCE will not take part in the peacemaking mission in the region since Russia cannot take part in the process of peace restoration alone.

The deputies hope that "the Azeri Government will protect normal mediatorial efforts further more."

The members of the Milli Mejlis accused the opposition of using Bishkek Protocol for political purposes, that is to cause instability in the republic and come to power.

The appeal was when 17 members of the Milli Mejlis left the Parliament building in token protest of the intention of the authorities to accept the Russian settlement plan. The deputies consider that this plan infringe on Azerbaijan's interests and they will fight against its putting into execution.

Democratic Congress Opposes Stationing Russian Troops

NC2005033294 Baku TURAN in English 1623 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Baku, 19 May (TURAN)—The session of Azerbaijan's Democratic Congress completed last evening. The agenda included only one question—return of Russian troops to Azerbaijan.

The participants of the session unanimously adopted the resolution which condemns the activities of the current leadership of the republic aimed at "return of Russian troops to the country". The resolution reads that "if

Russian troops be brought to Azerbaijan, the Democratic Congress reserves right to conduct rallies of protest."

The Democratic Congress was founded on 23 March 1994. It includes five opposition parties: Musavat, the Popular Front, the Democratic Party, the Party of Nation's Liberty, and Ana Torpag Party.

Armenians Report Azeri Cease-Fire Violation 19 May

LD2005105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0937 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 20 May—The press service of the Armenian Defense Ministry told this ITAR-TASS correspondent about a violation by the Azerbaijani side of the cease-fire on the border with Armenia. On Thursday [19 May] evening, positions near the border village of Vazashen in Idzhevanskiy rayon in the northeast of Armenia came under fire from personnel carriers. There were no casualties, and the Armenian side did not return fire, the press service noted.

Minister Urges Amendment to Signed Protocol on Karabakh

LD2005113294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow 20 May TASS—Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Mamadrafi Mammadov, who arrived in Moscow on Thursday, has not yet signed the protocol on ceasefire and disengagement of the warring troops, which was prepared for signing on 17 May.

Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Russia Ramiz Rizayev told ITAR-TASS that the Moscow meetings between the Azeri minister and Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev have failed to identify "common approaches, and Mamadrafi Mammadov intends to meet Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev today.

Azerbaijan insists on the withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the territories captured simultaneously with the ceasefire and disengagement of troops. It calls for recording this provision in the protocol. "We would like to combine the first and the second phases of the settlement of the conflict," Azerbaijan's ambassador told ITAR-TASS.

According to Ramiz Rizayev, Azerbaijan's proposals have met with support in principle of the Russian minister of foreign affairs, Andrey Kozyrev.

Experts of the Russian Defence Ministry do not think that Pavel Grachev will agree to the amendments to the protocol proposed by Azerbaijan. The protocol as is has already been signed by representatives of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia.

Georgia

Abkhaz Council of Ministers Meets in Extended Session

LD1805132294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] According to the press center of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers an extended session of the Council of Ministers has been held. An in-depth report on the Moscow agreement of 14 May 1994, on a ceasefire and the separation of forces was made by Zurab Erkvania, a member of the Georgian delegation at the talks and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Proceeding from the current realistic situation, the session supported the agreement and drew up the relevant measures.

The session discussed and adopted a resolution on the work of the Abkhaz Council of Ministers and immediate measures for stepping up its activity.

The leadership of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia met with a large group of refugees from Gali rayon. In a sincere and principled conversation, the two sides discussed the Moscow agreement on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Suggestions on creating mechanisms for carrying out safely and economically the first stage of the return of refugees were worked out.

Abkhaz Units Repel Georgian Army Attack 19 May

LD2005074194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Subunits of the Georgian Army tried to pierce Abkhaz unit positions on the confrontation line along the Inguri river on the evening of 19 May. INTERFAX learned at the Abkhazian Defense Ministry that the attack took place near the Inguri hydroelectric power station. The Georgian subunits were forced into retreat by a retaliatory attack by the Abkhaz side.

Abkhaz Armed Forces Placed on Alert

LD2005100494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] Georgian forces launched attack near Inguri GES. [passage omitted] Because of this incident, all subunits of the Abkhaz armed forces have been placed on combat alert.

Army Not Yet Ordered To Withdraw From Inguri River

LD1805130694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Georgian Army has not as yet been ordered to withdraw its troops from the line of conflict with the Abkhazian formations along the Inguri River in order to create a security zone. This was announced to INTERFAX by Georgian Defense Minister Lieutenant-General Varden Nadibaidze today.

The Georgian-Abkhazian agreement signed in Moscow on 14 May says that international observers and a CIS peace-keeping contingent mostly composed from the Russian forces will come to this security zone after the conflicting parties withdraw their troops 12 km away from the Inguri River. There will be 2,500 or 3,000 servicemen in the CIS peace-keeping forces.

Nadibaidze stated that the Georgian Army would carry out all orders received from the commander-in-chief and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

However, Chief of the Russian Transcaucasian Troops Group press center, Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachev, said in an interview with INTERFAX that the peace-keeping contingent was likely to be formed from the Russian Transcaucasian troops.

Defense Ministry Foreign Relations Department Head Named

LD1905174594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1330 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 19 May—The press service of the Georgian Defense Ministry has informed Iberia news agency that, at the order of Georgian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Colonel Davit Tevzadze, who is the holder of the Vakhtang Gorgasali Order 1st Degree, has been appointed head of the Defense Ministry's Foreign Relations Department. Before the appointment to this post, Col. Tevzadze worked as head of brigade No. 11.

Col. Tevzadze is a full member of the New York Academy of Sciences. He is married with four children.

Parliamentary Opposition Opposes Accords on Abkhazia

LD1905131994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] At the session of parliament in Georgia on Thursday [19 May]. Opposition parties again demanded to disavow the agreement on cease-fire and the disengagement of troops, which was signed in Moscow on 14 May following the results of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks. The document envisages the withdrawal of the Georgian and Abkhazian units from the line of confrontation passing along the Inguri River, the deployment in the "buffer zone" of peacekeepers. The opposition believes that the materialization of the document will lead to the loss of Abkhazia.

Deputy Irakly Tsereteli demanded that question be raised on confidence to the head of state Eduard Shevardnadze. If this is not done before 26 May, Day of Independence, he said, people will do this, instead of parliament.

The argument caused by the signing by Georgia of an agreement on the settlement, nearly broke the session of parliament on Tuesday.

Commenting in an interview with INTERFAX on the demands to hold early parliamentary elections, leader of the Republican Party, Ivlian Khandrava said that he did not see any legitimate mechanism for holding them.

The only way, he said, is the consent of two-thirds of the current parliament which is impossible to obtain. All the rest steps, including referendums and decisions by the head of state would not be legitimate, he said.

Respublican Faction Leaves Parliament To Protest Agreement

NC2005033394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1407 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 19 May (SNARK)—Expressing their disagreement to the 14 May Georgian-Abkhazian agreement signed in Moscow the faction of Respublicans left today's session just after the Parliament's non-acceptance of the suggestion expressed by the faction—to put into agenda two questions: to confirm the authorities of those who signed the agreement and on the agreement's disavowal.

One of the faction's leaders Ivlian Khaindrava told SNARK the process of negotiations follows the Russian-Abkhazian scenario.

The Respublican Faction will participate in the work of commissions. They will be present at the Parliament's sessions if only Georgian Parliament discusses the problem of conflict in Abkhazia or the economic problems.

Lithuania

Government Statement on Conservatives' Referendum

WS1905093094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 12 May 94 No. 92 pp 1, 5

[Statement by the Lithuanian Government "On the Homeland Union's Proposal To Adopt by Way of Referendum the Constitutional Draft Law 'On Illegal Privatization, Devalued Deposits and Stocks, and Law Enforcement Violations'" issued on 10 May in Vilnius]

[Text] Having considered the draft law "On Illegal Privatization, Devalued Deposits and Stocks, and Law Enforcement Violations" submitted by the Homeland Union (Lithuanian Conservatives), and the commentary presented by its Executive Council Chairman G. Vagnorius [former prime minister], **the Government of the Republic of Lithuania states that this draft law is just another attempt of the Homeland Union to push through an unconstitutional law. The enactment of its provisions would set Lithuanian people against one another, fool, and impoverish them even more, while the effects of all this would be blamed on the president and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.**

The current Lithuanian Government does not avoid fair and harsh criticism. At the same time, it does not specifically engage in the analysis and criticism of shortcomings of former governments. Given such slander and reckless appeals, however, the government must say to the countrymen what sort of draft law this is, and what goals the Homeland Union leadership is pursuing.

The draft law links in a populist manner and deliberately confuses three problems: Compensation of devalued deposits, privatization of state property, and long-term property indexation. Undoubtedly, the key problem is the compensation of deposits, which inhabitants had in Savings Bank accounts before 26 February 1991. At that time, the Lithuanian population had almost 2.8 million accounts at the Savings Bank, that is, this problem is pressing to nearly everyone, particularly to older people. The total of deposits was 7.1 billion rubles [R]. However, only R0.4 billion were kept in the Lithuanian Savings Bank accounts, and the remaining R6.7 billion—in the USSR Savings Bank. In fact, G. Vagnorius' government did not do anything to make Russia return those deposits, and it chose the easiest way for deceiving people by urging depositors to leave their money intact in savings banks. Incidentally, procuring cattle from inhabitants and having no real resources, G. Vagnorius' government also urged inhabitants to leave their money in savings banks. It promised to change those deposits according to a more favorable exchange rate when introducing the national currency.

The program of G. Vagnorius' government, which the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania approved on 13 June 1991 (the resolution was signed by current Homeland Union Chairman V. Landsbergis), included a pledge to protect the inhabitants' deposits in savings banks against inflation—"by adding the interest and, thus, increasing it in accordance with the officially approved inflation rate (in percent) over a period of interest review." Incidentally, it is this incorrect economic policy of G. Vagnorius' government that brought the largest wave on inflation to our country with its rate exceeding 50 percent in certain months. Therefore, it is understandable why former Lithuanian officials, V. Landsbergis and G. Vagnorius, who were fully responsible for restricting the payment of deposits to inhabitants and for their complete devaluation, have now chosen such an immoral political method, and they dare and continue to try to amass a political fortune from this problem.

Misleading the country's population, the Conservatives are urging it in a populist move to adopt by way of referendum their proposed draft law, because otherwise illegal privatization will not be prevented, and inhabitants will lose the savings that are backed by assets subject to privatization, **while the economy and living standards will continue to decline.** G. Vagnorius stresses in particular that if "we prevent the distribution of state property without privatization, it will be possible to exchange the 1991 ruble for more litas rather than just one." At first glance, this is a very attractive appeal. It is very difficult for people to realize why the current **government is categorically speaking out against the adoption of such a draft law.**

First, inhabitants lost their savings long ago, while the proposal to index them and other similar payments more than a 100 times is not based on any real possibilities.

Compensation of savings and the restoration of the Lithuanian Savings Bank assets according to the proposed 100-fold indexation alone would require about 8 billion litai [Lt]. One can expect most Lithuanian people, particularly of retirement age, who were already deceived by G. Vagnorius' government, to come for their indexed deposits all at the same time. However, the draft law does not envision the manner in which banks can unrestrictedly pay indexed deposits until the assets transferred to them are sold, and the sale of these assets will become complicated due to their small value. Nor does the law envision who will cover losses for banks if the property is sold at a price lower than its indexed nominal value. It will not be easy to privatize the remaining state property because the objects that enjoyed the greatest demand (and had the lowest prices) were sold at the beginning of privatization, when G. Vagnorius' government was in power.

If the rules for indexing and paying deposits proposed in the draft law were applied, the money supply in circulation would increase almost eight-fold and would exceed Lt9 billion, while the current money supply is a bare Lt1.040 million. The absence of an adequate amount of goods and services on the market would immediately cause hyperinflation (unrestrained price rise) which would gradually lead to the inevitable impoverishment

of all inhabitants, including depositors. This would have a particularly painful effect on a large part of the population which does not keep its savings in banks, as well as on employees of budget offices, because there would be no chance of increasing their wages in accordance with the inflation rate. Hyperinflation would destroy the Lithuanian economy and would fully devalue the national currency. The same conclusion was drawn by the World Bank experts after studying the draft law.

Second, while reiterating to the Lithuanian population about the possible indexation of deposits by using finances received from the sale of state property, G. Vagnorius should understand that it is his government that is primarily responsible for distributing almost the entire state assets for investment coupons for half price. Under this law, two-thirds of the property subject to privatization could be sold for investment coupons, that is, Lt712 million (two-thirds out of Lt1.068 billion), while the actual sum was Lt1.313 billion, that is, more than there was property for privatization. Although people were allowed to use investment coupons to buy apartments and land, or to privatize the property of agrarian enterprises (Lt343 million in investment coupons were used for this purpose), the amount of investment coupons issued for the privatization of state assets under the law on the primary privatization of state property exceeded the sum assigned by law as being Lt257.7 million. Therefore, the possibilities of commercial privatization are highly restricted in our country. Certainly, the policy of utilization of investment coupons is typical of all post- communist countries. However, sums of investment coupons or other forms of state property payments considerably differ in various states. For example, they account for 25 and 20 percent of the entire state assets in the Czech Republic and Slovenia, respectively. Meanwhile, in our country, investment coupons account for 82 percent of state property. Privatization in Estonia and Latvia is exclusively commercial—only for money.

Such a mode of state property privatization did not grant any possibilities to accumulate larger finances that could be utilized to compensate devalued deposits. However, it is already impossible to return to the former stage and change the privatization of state property, or to nationalize the long-term property that is privatized, because this would mean nothing else but a new nationalization. The sacred principle of property inviolability, contained in the Lithuanian Constitution, would be violated. This would discredit our government not only inside the country but also on the international scene, because private property is preserved and protected throughout the world.

Third, the deceitful and reckless statement that "in early 1993, the majority of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] in the Seimas [parliament], as well as the government, made some inadmissible amendments to privatization laws and resolutions, which allegedly legalize the appropriation of state assets and the property of true stockholders for "its own people".... The denationalization of industrial enterprises is even simpler. Since last spring, a "group of friends" [reference to managers linked with the LDDP] has mostly "transferred them" to stock companies without any privatization, or without paying either in litas or investment coupons."

Under Article 31 of the law on state-run enterprises adopted back in 1990 (G. Vagnorius actively participated in its drafting), and under G. Vagnorius' government resolution No. 51 "On the Increase of Capital Stock at State-Run and State Stock Enterprises With Their Own Resources," issued on 27 January 1992, enterprises were granted the right to enlarge their capital stock with residue profits, by issuing free or partially paid stocks in line with the law. This was the key method for restoring devalued working capital of enterprises due to hyperinflation, and for accumulating resources necessary for investments.

An increase of the stock capital in line with the law on state-run enterprises changes only the ratio of state and stock capital, while the total sum of state capital remains undiminished. Therefore, the change in the status of an enterprise prevents the privatization of its state property, because in this case the state acquires the stockholders' rights defined in Article 14 of the law on stock companies of the Republic of Lithuania. Such a process cannot be called privatization or the appropriation of state property.

A commentary to the draft law often mentions a "group of friends." However, these are not representatives of the government or the Mafia, but collectives of enterprises that became lawful stockholders. These are people who, under the provisions of the law on state-run enterprises, allocated residue profits for the enlargement of the stock capital, who did not "eat up" residue profits in the form of bonuses or other payments, and who did not put any additional pressure on the consumer market. So, what is their guilt, and why do the Conservatives propose to take away their amassed property?

Resolution No. 456 "On Privatization Rules for State-Run and State Stock Enterprises, Non-Residential Facilities or Buildings Leased From State Offices and Organizations With Private Capital Investments," issued by G. Vagnorius' government on 12 June 1992, authorized the transfer of leased non-residential facilities to private capital enterprises as a state property contribution. The value of those facilities was assessed by the experts' commission, while the Central Privatization Commission was allowed to raise it to market prices. Between 1992 and 1993, lawfully leased facilities or buildings were transferred to 77 private capital enterprises. The residue value of these facilities is Lt38,400. The experts' commission assessed them at Lt3.5 million, while the Central Privatization Commission increased their value to Lt6.2 million. Nine commercial banks received leased facilities as a state property contribution with the residue

value of Lt78,700, and the Central Privatization Commission enlarged the latter to Lt10 million. Since this resolution ran counter to the law on primary privatization of state property, the current government amended it by resolution No. 178 on 16 May 1994.

This repeatedly demonstrates that in pursuing selfish goals, the Homeland Union leadership can bring the most absurd charges against the Seimas majority and the current government.

Fourth, the Conservatives' proposal to index the long-term property of enterprises, including that of agrarian entities, offices, and organizations, in accordance with its structure as of 1 May 1992, and with the overall rate of devaluation, is totally unacceptable. With the privatization process under way, the structure of capital has essentially changed, and one cannot return to what is nonexistent.

Government resolution No. 206 of 28 March 1994 established the ratio of property indexation considering the date this property was acquired, and the fact that the volume of production in industry and other sectors of the economy have declined by about 50 percent in comparison with 1991. Therefore, the effectiveness of long-term property has also dropped by half, and it would be incorrect to estimate it according to the full rate of devaluation, which the Statistics Department is doing. A large part of the country's long- term property comprises outdated equipment and technologies, which had to be worn out. However, former government resolutions continuously reduced the depreciation of the principal means of production. During the first indexation, the depreciation of long- term property was reduced twice, while during the second indexation—four times. This way, the true value of capital goods became distorted. Therefore, government resolution No. 206 of 28 March 1994 envisions the indexation of the primary and residual value in accordance with different ratios, by restoring relevant depreciation. The surplus of the reviewed property is ascribed as the state and stock capital registered before 1 April 1994.

The indexation of long-term property is mandatory for state-run and state stock enterprises, while private companies are only urged to accomplish this. Stockholders themselves must demand from their managers the indexation of their long-term property. Following the indexation of long-term property and capital of enterprises, stockholders' capital is also indexed, that is, the nominal value or the existing number of stocks is increased. Therefore, stockholders will not incur any losses. Thus, it is totally incomprehensible on what grounds G. Vagnorius calls the resolution of the current government on the indexation of long-term property "just another deliberate deception of people" and impertinent arbitrary rule; why, in his opinion, the value of the restored property "does not go to its owners, that is, the true stockholders or the state; and why is this property transferred in an unconstitutional manner to a "group of friends," who has recently acquired stock unlawfully or who has appropriated assets in some other way." Is it not an attempt to discredit the current government at any cost and to mislead the Lithuanian population?

Fifth, having done nothing or not having fulfilled their promises to protect the inhabitant's deposits against inflation, the Conservatives are now proposing in their draft law (Paragraph 6 of Article 4) that the government assign $6 million from the Lithuanian hard currency reserve to fully compensate the deposits that were kept in the Lithuanian branch of the USSR Foreign Economic Relations Bank. This is a tempting proposal. However, we would like to ask G. Vagnorius on this occasion why his government, which intended to compensate inhabitants' devalued savings, wasted rather than preserved $5 million before the introduction of the litas by buying some totally unnecessary medical equipment from the Canadian company "Asmar." G. Vagnorius' government did not do anything to regain from the USSR Foreign Economic Relations Bank the deposits of physical and juridical persons estimated at $148.9 million, with $95 million among them accumulated for the reconstruction of the Klaipeda state oil enterprise, even though there were possibilities for this. Large finances were also wasted to acquire arms and supply the national defense system and the government security service. The Seimas Commission for Investigating Economic Crimes has established that G. Vagnorius' government distributed several tens of millions of U.S. dollars without Supreme Council approval. Meanwhile, this money could be amassed to compensate the devalued investments.

The current government, in cooperation with the Seimas, is looking for ways to compensate inhabitants' lost savings. In its 15 December 1993 resolution No. 1-338, the Seimas approved the rules of indexing inhabitants' savings accumulated before 26 February 1991, and established that beginning in 1995, compensations for inhabitants' deposits will be estimated and paid in accordance with the amount of finances saved in the Income Restoration and Compensation Fund. The Seimas approved the statute of this fund on 26 April 1994 by its resolution No. I-444. This fund is formed with budget reserves, as well as with money earned from the privatization of state property and the sale of state stocks on the securities market, and with dividends received for the state capital in stock companies, and other resources. Under the current rules, by 1 May of this year, the government has paid more than Lt108 million in compensations, and it plans to pay another Lt100 million in early 1995.

Government resolution No. 176 issued on 16 March 1994 defined the rules of partial compensation for the deposits which inhabitants kept at the Lithuanian branch of the USSR Foreign Economic Relations Bank (a similar decision was also adopted in 1993). The Finance Ministry received $1.2 million from the Government reserve fund to pay compensations to former depositors of the aforementioned bank. As of 1 May, there were $845,000 paid out of this fund. After the total

assigned sum is paid out, 1,081 persons (out of the total of 2,107 depositors at the given bank) would receive full compensation for the appropriated money.

In addition, the return of appropriated deposits is the issue of heated debate in negotiations with Russia.

Sixth, the Conservatives want the draft law to act retroactively and recognize as unlawful the actions of enterprises in increasing the stock capital with residual profits and by other legal measures contained in laws and resolutions drafted and adopted during the times of G. Vagnorius' government.

This draft law has quite a number of inconsistencies and contradictions with the current law of the Republic of Lithuania. It is also full of inaccuracies and provisions regulating such relations that cannot be the subject matter of this law. Moreover, under Part 3 of Article 69 of the Lithuanian Constitution, this draft law could be presented as constitutional only if it is included in the list of constitutional laws, drafted by the Lithuanian Seimas.

Following the universally accepted principle of the division of powers, the lawfulness of some government actions should be considered by the Constitutional Court rather than by way of referendum.

By submitting this draft law, the Homeland Union is seeking not to restore justice but to set Lithuanian people against one another even more, to paralyze the economic and social policy conducted by the current government, to cause chaos in the country's economy, to impoverish the people, and to discredit the Lithuanian Government through this.

Realizing the meaningless and absurd nature of this move, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania appeals to all Lithuanian people not to yield to the temptation of Homeland Union's populist proposals, and not to vote for this draft law. We can improve our lives through patient daily work rather than through referendums.
[Signed] The Government of the Republic of Lithuania
[Dated] 10 May 1994

Foreign Minister Returns From Integration Talks in Brussels

WS1905103294 Tallinn BNS in English 1638 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 18, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys on Wednesday [18 May] returned from Brussels where he attended a meeting between the foreign ministers of the Baltic states and their counterparts from Belgium, Greece, Germany, which presently make up the presidency troika of the European Union [EU].

The Lithuanian minister spoke about the course of free trade talks with the EU on behalf of all three Baltic states. He said Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are interested in completing the talks by July.

Gylys emphasized that free trade agreements with the EU are very important to the three Baltic countries, considering their economic reforms and further integration into the EU, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said. The Lithuanian minister expressed hope that EU members will understand the economic difficulties encountered by the Baltics and will make mutually acceptable decisions in the fields of agriculture, fishing and textile industry.

Gylys urged the EU to start talks on associate membership with the Baltics as soon as possible and to discuss the issue at the upcoming EU summit in June. The minister said it is necessary to intensify the dialogue between the Baltics and the EU more and suggested to include Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the political dialogue between the EU and Central European states according to a 12-plus-6-plus-3 formula.

Minister Gylys praised the Western European Union's decision to grant associate status to 9 East and Central European states. "The step is a specific example of integrating the Baltic states into Western European structures."

Swedish Minister Tours Nuclear Plant, Concludes Visit

WS2005073194 Tallinn BNS in English 1307 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 19, BNS—Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas completed her one-day visit to Lithuania Thursday [19 May] morning and left for Russia's Kaliningrad region, where she intends to meet with the head of the region's administration.

During her stay in Lithuania Wednesday, af Ugglas met with President Algirdas Brazauskas, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and visited the Ignalina nuclear power plant.

Asta Skaisgiryte, head of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's Northern Europe Division, said the Swedish minister has a negative attitude toward nuclear plants, but when she saw Ignalina's reactors, fire-prevention and safety systems, she seemed to be quite satisfied with the situation at the plant. "When there's no order, the chances of an accident are much higher," the minister said.

A Swedish expert working at Ignalina showed and explained how Sweden helps Lithuania to make its plant safer. Af Ugglas said she is satisfied with the work done.

The Swedish minister's meeting with her Lithuanian counterpart was mainly devoted to cooperation between Baltic and Nordic countries. Gylys and af Ugglas discussed preparations for a meeting between Nordic and Baltic foreign ministers, who intend to gather Aug. 31 in the Lithuanian seaside resort of Palanga.

Before Palanga, Nordic countries are expected to discuss possibilities to represent consular interests of the Baltic

states in countries where Estonia, Latvia and Estonia do not have their diplomatic missions. Nordic countries already set up a joint working group to deal with the matter.

Gylys and af Ugglas also discussed Kaliningrad's demilitarization. The Swedish minister said she intends to inform Matochkin about Sweden's official position regarding the need to reduce Russia's military potential in Kaliningrad.

Ministry Welcomes Swedish Stand on Troops in Kaliningrad

WS2005080294 Tallinn BNS in English 1914 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 19, BNS—Lithuania welcomes Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas' position that the number of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad region must be reduced, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said in a press release Thursday [19 May].

"The Kaliningrad region is an anomaly in the Baltic Sea region because of the huge army and navy forces concentrated in this area," af Ugglas was quoted as saying by the Lithuanian ministry. The Swedish minister, who visited the region Thursday, reportedly expressed hope that Russia will demonstrate its preparedness to reduce its military potential in Kaliningrad.

The Lithuanian ministry said efforts to raise the issue of Kaliningrad's demilitarization on an international level and to integrate the region into international cooperation processes would significantly contribute to enhancing security in the Baltic Sea region.

Defense Minister, Belarusian Counterpart Discuss Relations

WS2005075994 Tallinn BNS in English 1914 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 19, BNS—Having met in Vilnius Thursday [19 May], Lithuanian and Belarusian defense ministers expect to establish permanent neighborly partnership relations.

A delegation of Belarusian defense officials, headed by Defense Minister Col. Gen. Pavel Kazlowski, met with Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius, Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas and visited the Geleznis Vilkas (Iron Wolf) field brigade.

Both ministers agree that the 720-kilometer Lithuanian-Belarusian border is an incentive to cooperate. This argument seems to be above the differences in defense concepts.

Lithuania links its security guarantees with integration into NATO, while Belarus is a member of the collective security system of the CIS. But Linkevicius and Kazlowski maintain that the fact cannot hinder bilateral cooperation.

Linkevicius told reporters that contacts would be easier if Belarus joined NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program.

The Belarusian Government is now discussing the degree of the country's possible participation in the program, Kazlowski said at a press conference.

The Belarusian minister said relations with the Baltics are especially significant to Belarus. Kazlowski said his country would like to learn more about Lithuania's experience in creating its armed forces.

The two ministers agreed to set up working groups to continue the dialogue started in Vilnius and to determine areas for possible cooperation.

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